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# ARAB TIMES

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## German hostage freed, no ransom

SIDON, Lebanon, May 14, (Agencies): A West German hostage was released today in southern Lebanon after 10 days in captivity, as a result of mediation efforts spearheaded by Shiite Arab militia chief Nabih Berri.

Meanwhile police and Syrian troops today hunted for a kidnapped elderly Briton, whose car was found abandoned near a Beirut restaurant.

Markus Quint, 24, arrived at the headquarters of Asme Humanitas — a West German-based relief organisation — in the Shiite Zahrani region, south of the port city of Sidon, 24 miles (38 km) south of Beirut, at around 4.03 pm (13.03 GMT).

The smartly-dressed, clean-shaven German arrived at the Asme offices in a heavily-guarded convoy, in which he was driven along with Berri from an unknown place. The two men, accompanied by two armed militiamen, stepped down from a white BMW car.

"I was treated well. The captors gave me no messages," said Quint during a news conference he held with Berri moments after their surprise appearance at Asme's offices.

When asked to elaborate on the circumstances of the abduction, Quint, wearing a clean T-shirt, a blue jeans and a jogging shoes, replied: "Excuse me, I'm so tired."

Berri said: "No ransom was paid to release Markus... He was set free without conditions."

He said the release was the result of intensive indirect contacts with the kidnappers, whom he declined to identify. "I did not meet the captors," he said.

Berri said: "This operation (the abduction) should not be repeated in southern Lebanon, and I urge the German authorities not to withdraw their citizens from the country or southern Lebanon."

Earlier, there were reports that five of Quint's colleagues in Humanitas serving in the largely impoverished southern regions were to be sent back home in a short period of time because of Quint's abduction.

Some 30 reporters, who had waited at the organisation's headquarters for a scheduled conference by Berri, were surprised at seeing Quint getting out of Berri's car.

Quint was kidnapped along with two colleague rescuers of German nationality May 4, but his companions were released six hours later.

The German national was believed kidnapped in connection with the trial in Germany of Shiite activist Mohammed Ali

(Continued on Page 9 Col. 4)



Sultan Qaboos received by HH the Amir (left) and HH the Crown Prince (right). Sultan Qaboos and HH the Amir listening to national anthems (left) and in talks (right).

## Sultan Qaboos on historic visit, received warmly

KUWAIT, May 14, (Agencies): Sultan Qaboos Bin Saud of Oman began an official visit to Kuwait amid inter-Arab consultations ahead of an emergency Arab summit conference in Morocco.

Kuwait is the first leg of a six-nation Arab and European tour by Sultan Qaboos, who is on one of his rare international tours. The other countries on his itinerary are Jordan, Egypt, France, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Sultan Qaboos has not been on a trip outside the Arab world since his 1983 visit to the United States.

Sultan Qaboos was received at the airport by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, head of the National Guard, the minister of Amiri Diwan, other ministers and foreign ambassadors in Kuwait, in addition to senior state officials.

An honorary delegation headed by Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed will accompany Sultan Qaboos during his stay in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti cabinet today welcomed Sultan Qaboos' visit, saying the visit comes in the framework of fraternal relations between Kuwait and Oman and the historic ties between peoples of the two countries.

Following its weekly session, chaired by the Crown Prince the cabinet expressed welcome to the country's esteemed guest.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, briefing newsmen on the session, said the council affirmed that the Sultan's meeting with the Amir would have great importance in boosting bilateral relations in different fields to achieve the goals of the GCC.

(Continued on Page 9 Col. 5)



Chinese students on a hunger strike sleep at sunrise. (Reuters wirephoto)



Soviet diplomats receive a letter from a student activist.

## Haj talks fail Fahd to visit South Yemen

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 14, (Agencies): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has accepted an official invitation to visit the Marxist-ruled state of South Yemen, according to Aden's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

While Iranian sources said today talks with the Saudis on haj have failed.

The South Yemen Ambassador to Riyadh, Ghaleb Ali Gameel, told Arab Times sister daily Al Seyassah that the date for the visit has yet to be fixed.

The visit would be the first by a monarch of the kingdom to Aden since it gained independence from Britain in November 1967 and subsequently became the Arab world's only self-proclaimed Marxist country.

The ambassador said no Saudi monarch had been there since the 1950s.

South Yemen has close economic and military ties with the Soviet Union, while the kingdom has yet to establish diplomatic ties with Moscow.

Over

Iran and Saudi Arabia have broken off efforts to end Tehran's boycott of the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah, Iranian sources in the Gulf said today.

Even if contacts resumed, it was now almost impossible to arrange for Iranians to take part in this year's pilgrimage in July, said the sources, who are close to members of Iran's negotiating team.

Iran and Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations in a row which ensued after riots during the 1987 pilgrimage in which more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed.

But both countries expressed willingness to try to improve relations following last August's ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, during which Riyadh firmly supported Baghdad.

Tehran demanded four concessions. It wanted Saudi Arabia to accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims, to allow them to hold political demonstrations, to compensate Iran for the 1987 casualties and to make an apology.

Saudi officials have consistently denied that any direct talks have taken place but diplomats in the region say that negotiations have been going on indirectly for several months, mainly through other Muslim nations such as Pakistan.

Riyadh has said repeatedly that Iran must stick to a quota of 45,000 pilgrims, agreed by Islamic states last year.

Arab diplomats in the Gulf said Saudi Arabia would never allow the pilgrimage to be turned into a forum for political protest.

An official Saudi statement last week said anyone who disrupted the pilgrimage would be liable for punishment under strict Islamic sharia laws.

## US-Soviet peace initiative expected

Israeli cabinet endorses election plan

RIYADH, May 14 (Agencies): The United States and the Soviet Union are planning to launch a joint peace initiative for the Middle East, a Saudi Arabian newspaper reported today.

In another development, the Israeli cabinet today endorsed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposals for elections in the occupied territories.

The daily newspaper Al Nadwa, quoting an unidentified Egyptian diplomatic source, said that the initiative involves a shuttle between Middle East capitals by a joint American-Soviet delegation.

It said the idea was raised by US Secretary of State James Baker during his recent talks in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze.

Baker's condition was that the Soviet Union first restore diplomatic ties with Israel.

"Baker told Shevardnadze about the idea of sending a Soviet-American delegation to the region, but he made it a condition that Moscow restore its ties with Tel Aviv so that the task of the joint delegation can succeed," Al Nadwa quoted the Egyptian diplomat as saying.

Shevardnadze, according to the source, was "responsive to the American view on relations with Israel and affirmed his country was seriously studying this matter but was awaiting some Israeli flexibility on the peace-making process as an encouragement."

The Israeli ministers approved by a vote of 20-6 a peace plan that envisages "free, democratic and secret" elections to choose representatives to negotiate Palestinian self-rule with Israel.

Sidestepping US requests, the document does not say if 140,000 Palestinians in Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem will be allowed to vote and does not mention international supervision or a pull-back of Israeli troops before the election.

The 20-point document, entitled "a peace initiative by the government of Israel," does not make elections strictly conditional on an end to the 17-month-old uprising by 1.75 million Palestinians under occupation.

In the occupied territories today, Arab reports said the body of Ismail Mahmoud Fakawi, 20, was found in a garbage dump in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. Some reports suggested he was a collaborator with Israeli authorities, but Army officials said the motive for the killing was apparently criminal involving drugs.

The Army also confirmed the death of Hassan Awadeh, 60, who died of stab wounds received yesterday in the West Bank village of Kfar Salit. Arab reports said he collaborated with Israel.

Arab reports said five Palestinians were shot and wounded. Three in the Gaza Strip and two in the West Bank, during clashes with Israeli soldiers.

An Israeli military court today remanded in custody two Arabs accused of helping Palestinian professor Sari Nusseibeh organise the uprising in the occupied territories.

## Israel in missile espionage

LONDON, May 14, (AP): Israel's Mossad secret service was involved in South African espionage efforts to obtain British missile technology, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

The conservative weekly, quoting unidentified "security sources in London, linked Mossad and South African arms manufacturer, Armscor, in the operation which led to the arrest of five men in Paris last month in a reported missile for-arms deal.

The newspaper said Israel is as keen as Armscor on obtaining the latest British missile technology because it is "critically short of modern air defences for its ground forces" after 20 years of underestimating Arab air forces.



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○ چھ کاروانی بیانات ختم کرنے کی کوشش ہوگا  
○ جرنل ضیاء کی ہلاکت پر امریکی بریگیڈ نے رپورٹ  
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## \$500m causeway proposed to link Saudi Arabia with Egypt

RIYADH, May 14, (AP): Saudi Arabia and Egypt will be 10 minutes apart by car when a projected causeway from the Sinai peninsula to the Saudi coast is completed, a Saudi newspaper reported today.

The Dammam-based daily Al Yaum said the roadway across the straits of Tiran will cost \$500 million and take three to five years to execute.

The report did not specify how close the highway would come to Ras Mohammed, a nature preserve at the very tip of the Sinai peninsula known internationally for its stunning coral reefs and fish.

The blueprint will be discussed at the meeting of the joint Saudi-Egyptian commission under the chairmanship of foreign ministers in Cairo in September, with a preparatory meeting in August in Riyadh, the paper said.

It will then be submitted to the higher authorities for final approval, the paper said.

The paper said the highway, which would include a bridge high enough to allow ships to pass through the Gulf of Aqaba, will stretch from the Sinai coast to the west coast of Saudi Arabia via the island of Tiran.

## Opposition calls strike Overthrow Noriega: Bush

STARKVILLE, Mississippi, May 14, (Agencies): President George Bush has raised the stakes dramatically in his confrontation with Manuel Antonio Noriega by calling on the Panamanian military and people to overthrow their country's de facto ruler.

Previously, Bush had called on Noriega to step aside, but had not directly urged revolt.

The President, who said Panamanians "ought to do everything they can to get him out," also offered a peaceful solution. He suggested that Noriega, who is under US indictment for drug trafficking, could flee to a country that would not extradite him for trial in the United States.

"I would love to see them (the Panamanian Defence Forces) get him out... not just the PDF... the will of the people," Bush told reporters yesterday when asked if he was urging a military coup.

Bidding to encourage an uprising by the military — Noriega's power base — Bush said he wanted the Panama armed forces to understand "there is no vendetta against the PDF as an institution."

Noriega's only formal title is commander of the PDF.

In a 20-minute question-and-answer session with reporters travelling with him on his plane to a college graduation ceremony at Mississippi State University, Bush also said he had no plans for further reinforcement of US troops in Panama.

And he emphasised that American military forces in Panama, there to protect US citizens and defend the US-operated Panama canal, would not be used to back a coup attempt.

Panama's opposition, switching tactics in its bid to force the government to admit defeat in national elections, appealed to workers to bring the country to a halt with a general strike.

A 24-hour nationwide strike, involving workers, businessmen, professionals and housewives, is planned for Wednesday.

Two polls on the post-election turmoil in Panama indicate a majority of Americans support President Bush's decision to send troops to the Central American nation but are dubious about using them.

The official Soviet news agency Tass yesterday accused the United States of heightening tension in Panama and demanded an immediate end to "outside pressure" on the Central American country.

## 30 die in fierce Sri Lanka battle

COLOMBO, May 14, (Reuters): Eighteen Tamil guerrillas and 12 Indian soldiers were killed in a fierce battle in northern Sri Lanka, the Indian embassy said today.

A spokeswoman said five soldiers were wounded when about 35 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels ambushed an Indian patrol at Nedunkerni in the Vavuniya district yesterday.

She did not have details of the attack.

## Seoul police break up march

### Student's death a mystery

KWANGJU, South Korea, May 14, (AP): Charging riot police lashing out with truncheons and shields today dispersed thousands of people who marched for a second day to protest the death of a radical student.

Waves of riot police tore into a crowd of about 5,000 people in front of the provincial government headquarters and drove them back. Screaming protesters were trampled underfoot as troopers broke up the crowd after some people tried to force their way past police.

Radical students pelted police with rocks and bricks as fighting surged up and down Kwangju's main street. Hundreds of onlookers jeered and yelled insults at police who tried to clear the street by marching in lines with interlocked shields.

"Down with the military dictatorship," "Drive out the Yankees," protesters chanted. Some police and protesters were hurt in the

fighting. Police officials said they had no figures on injuries.

About 5,000 riot police in green combat fatigues and black visored helmets surrounded the government building and broke up the protest. The march today was smaller but more violent than a similar protest yesterday.

A smaller march earlier today by about 1,000 people was peaceful except for some pushing and shoving between police and protesters. Riot troopers sang a police fighting song to try to drown out protesters singing anti-government songs.

A much larger crowd assembled in the afternoon for the second march to the government headquarters. Chanting protesters tried repeatedly to break through lines of riot police in front of the headquarters before troopers with black three-foot (one-metre) truncheons charged to drive them back.

Protesters were marching to denounce

authorities over the death of radical student Lee Chul-Kyu. Dissidents claim police tortured and killed him. "Lee Chul-Kyu" protesters chanted.

Lee's body was found last Wednesday in a reservoir near Kwangju, a provincial capital 20 kilometres (168 miles) south of Seoul. Police, who were hunting Lee for anti-government activities, have denied any involvement in the death.

In Seoul, officials said pathology tests were being conducted to determine if Lee's body contained plankton, which they said would suggest that he died by drowning. Initial results would be released tomorrow, they said.

Radical student leaders told a news conference today they would appeal to Amnesty International to conduct an independent investigation of the death if an official Korean probe concludes police were not responsible.

## Dialogue to end protest collapses

### Students throng Beijing

BEIJING, May 14, (Reuters): At least 10,000 Chinese students demanding political reform thronged central Beijing today, and talks to end the protest broke down in disarray.

The students and some 20,000 sympathetic onlookers swarmed in festive mood onto the vast Tiananmen Square in front of the Great Hall of the People, where Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is due to attend a welcoming ceremony tomorrow afternoon. Representatives of 1,000 students staging a hunger strike walked out of a crisis meeting with senior Communist Party and government leaders when the officials said they could not broadcast the talks live.

One of the hunger strikers leaving the meeting said: "The government said live transmission was not possible for technical reasons but we think that is just a pretext."

He declared: "We will go to the square and wait as long as necessary until the government gives us dialogue."

The students are demanding an "equal" dialogue on political reform to be broadcast live.

The students have been using Gorbachev's imminent arrival to put pressure on the government, and the authorities have responded with a series of conciliatory gestures.

An official delegation, visiting the hunger strikers overnight, promised talks tomorrow. Then a more senior team of Communist Party and government leaders offered immediate talks.

The talks were held near Tiananmen Square in offices across a street from the red-walled compound where senior leaders live and work.

Excited students packed the street and climbed trees to catch sight of hunger strike delegates squeezing through the crowd to the gateway to the offices.

"After the hunger strikers' a-



CHINESE students carry a sign that reads, 'Give me democracy or give me death,' during demonstration in Tiananmen Square. (Reuters wirephoto)

done the talks, a student leader said: "If the government would agree to our conditions for dialogue, we would leave the square to ensure the victorious success of the Sino-Soviet summit."

A woman student shouted through a loud hailer that party chief Zhao Ziyang or Premier Li Peng should come to the square

to talk to the students, even if they had nothing to say. The crowd roared with good-humoured assent.

The crowds swelled throughout the evening as thousands more students poured into the square from the university district on the western outskirts of the city, some on bicycles, some walking, many carrying banners.

## Fire on US ship kills two

NORFOLK, Virginia, May 14, (Agencies): An explosion and fire erupted aboard the aircraft carrier USS America off the North Carolina coast, killing two crewmen in the third major accident aboard a Navy vessel in a month, the Navy reported today.

Shipboard firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze, which broke out in the No. 2 fuel pump room yesterday, said a spokesman for the Navy's Atlantic fleet headquarters in Norfolk.

The vessel remained under its own power and was continuing on its assigned mission — a previously scheduled deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean, Lt. Cmdr. Steve Burnett said.

The America, which is based in Norfolk, began its current mission last Thursday, the Navy said. The vessel was in the Western Atlantic off the North Carolina coast at the time of the fire, Burnett said.

"The fire was very quickly isolated and brought under control," he said. "But because of the intense heat ... it took several hours to cool the pump room."

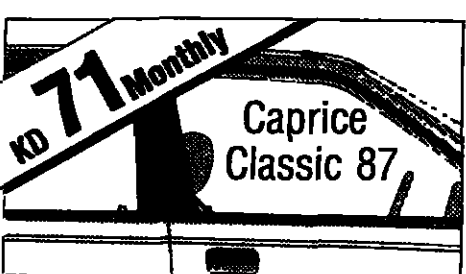
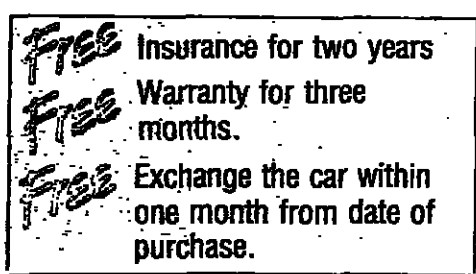
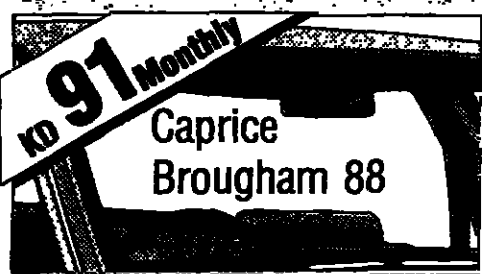
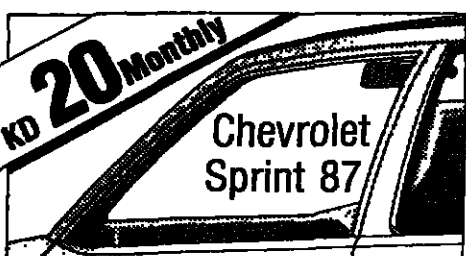
The victims were identified as Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Childress, 22, of Ham Lake, Minnesota, and Airman Recruit Larry Brunson, 19, of Akron, Ohio.

## Mystery unresolved

ROME, May 14, (Reuters): An official inquiry has apparently failed to clear up a nine-year-old mystery over an Italian airplane crash and has cast doubt on reports that the plane was destroyed by a missile, newspapers said today.

The inquiry into the plane crash off Sicily in June 1980, which killed all 81 people on board, was set up by Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita last November after strong speculation that the DC-9 was hit by an air-to-air missile.

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**Blown up**  
Boston hospital psychiatric nurse Michael Sullivan and Police Sgt. Francis Miller, visible at right, are jolted as a stun grenade explosion blows out the windows and rocks the car of a gunman threatening to take his own life. Police arrested Daniel Sembert after a three hour standoff. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Gun country Virginia

### Arms bazaar doing brisk business

MANASSAS, Virginia, May 14. (Reuter): In a brand new shopping centre west of Washington you can stock up on groceries, have your hair done and buy a gun.

Every week scores of families pass the old town armory gun bazaar, where revolvers, pistols, rifles and shotguns are on offer, and kids get free balloons.

No permit is required to buy a gun in the state of Virginia, only proof of identity. A driving licence will suffice.

In this state a permit is required to carry a concealed weapon for which background checks are made for criminal record or history of mental illness. But purchasers are not asked why they are buying a weapon.

Old town armory staff deny there is anything sinister about their wares or the store location amid shops selling less lethal stock, saying their typical customer is not a budding Rambo but an average American hunter or homeowner.

A row of rifles — sleek and simple or gold inlaid and fancily carved — stretches the full length of the store, where prices range from about \$150 for a basic revolver to over \$15,000 for a superior shotgun.

Boxes of ammunition are piled high and glass cases hold handguns of all shapes, colours and sizes.

Some, just a few inches long, look like the kind a female spy might tuck in her stocking. Other models could easily feature in a police action series or a cowboy movie.

But this is Virginia, farming and family country, not the Wild West. Though only a short drive from Washington, the town of Manassas with its new shopping arcade is a world away from the drug wars and the violence seen in the nation's capital.

But the crime wave which has branded Washington the nation's "murder capital" has left its mark here, too. In the gunstore you can pick up a brochure denouncing a recent crackdown on the gun trade.

In response to the record murder rate in Washington and last year's school massacre in Stockton, California, the government has restricted the flow of weapons into the country, effectively barring all imported semi-automatic rifles.

But only a few controls apply to domestic gun producers.

Preliminary statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation show that there were about 20,700 homicides in the United States in 1988, one every 25 minutes or so.

Figures for firearms use in 1988 murders are not yet available but in 1987 there were 10,556 recorded cases of people shot to death.

## Crack addicts

### Mystery deaths puzzle officials

MIAMI, May 14. (AP): Seventeen women, all black and most of them crack cocaine addicts and prostitutes, have died mysteriously in Miami since 1986.

There have been no signs of violence, no signs of illness — nothing to suggest who or what may have killed them.

Was it a serial killer who knows how to hide signs of violence? A deadly new form of drug abuse? Investigators don't know.

Last week, after a new wave of publicity, Dade County medical examiner Joseph Davis officially declared the cases homicides. But Davis acknowledges that the cause of death remains unknown, and investigators say they are as frustrated as before.

"If, in fact, there is a killer or killers out there, or if it's caused by crack cocaine, we just don't know yet," says John Farrell, chief of the headquarters division of detectives for Metro-Dade police. "We consider them open cases and we're investigating them as if they were homicides."

FBI behavioural scientists and experts from the National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta have been called in by local authorities to study the sparse data. Their reports are not complete.

Farrell notes that there is not even a proven link among the deaths. However, there is a pattern.

The bodies of all but one of the women were found in a narrow, predominantly black section of Miami and an adjoining suburb. They were lying in overgrown vacant lots, abandoned houses or black alleys and appeared to have recently engaged in sexual activity. All but two had traces of cocaine in their blood. Most were known as willing to trade sex for crack money.

None, however, showed any signs of trauma or violence, and the cause of death listed as unknown. The latest known victim, Peggy Gooden, 27, was discovered on April 2.

There are several theories on the killings, but there are problems with each.

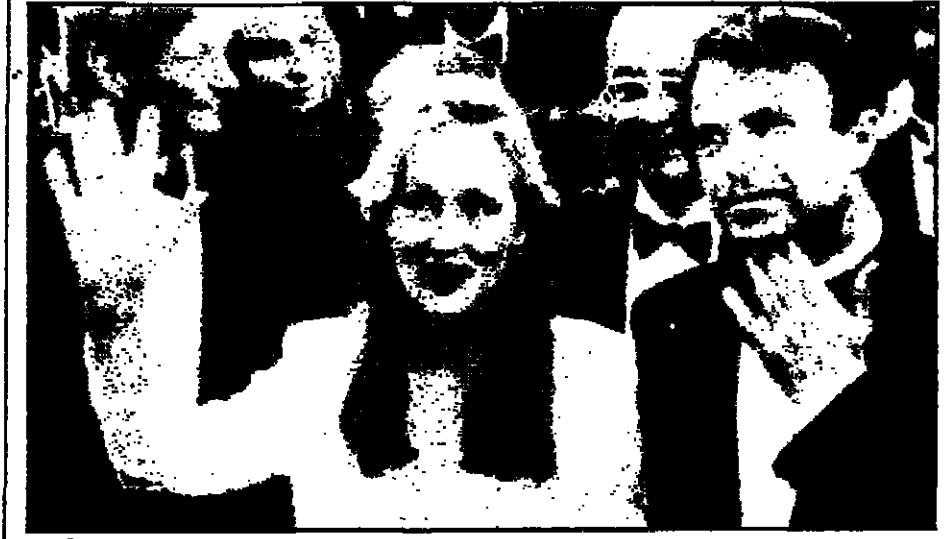
If a killer is at work, he has gone to great lengths to hide his method of killing the women. The working assumption is that the killer would somehow strangle or smother them — a difficult cause of death to establish.

And police say it strains credibility that the women would quietly suffocate without screaming, fighting or resisting enough to show signs of trauma.

Dr. Lee Hearn, chief toxicologist for the medical examiner's office, says the bodies were even checked for cyanide, but no traces were found. People who are poisoned generally show signs of illness before their deaths, and none of the women did.

That leaves the possibility of a previously unknown kind of chemical reaction in which small amounts of cocaine — perhaps coupled with genetic factors, a rundown physical condition or sexual stimulation — resulted in sudden death.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES



Streep (left) waves as she climbs the steps of the festival palace with actor Sam Neil.

## No comic scripts

### Streep's tragedy: no comedy

CANNES, May 14. (UPI): Actress Meryl Streep said yesterday she would like to play a comic role after her demanding performance in US director Fred Schepisi's film "A Cry in the Dark", which has been shown at the 42nd Cannes film festival.

"I am desperately looking for a comedy, but they don't send me any (comic) scripts," the Academy award winning star told a news conference to mark the European premiere of the movie. It is based on the life of Lindy Chamberlain, an Australian housewife whose baby was eaten by dingos in the outback.

Streep said she accepted an offer to act in the film after the producer, Verity Lambert, sent her a book on the bizarre case (EVI) Angels by John Bryson. "I thought there was evidence to exonerate Lindy," Streep said.

Chamberlain's drama, dating to the spring 1980 disappearance of her baby Azaria at Ayer's Rock bitterly divided Australian public opinion. A jury rejected her version of the event and she was sentenced to a life prison term. She served 3-1/2 years of her sentence but finally won an appeal Sept 15th, 1988. Three judges ruled the earlier convictions of Lindy and her husband constituted "a miscarriage of justice and must be quashed."

The film has received good reviews since its US

sufficiently," said zoo director John Moore. "These birds are not real kind." (AP)

CAPE TOWN, South Africa: Suspected right-wing extremists tarred and feathered a ruling party mayor in front of a horrified crowd on Saturday as the official opened a multi-racial wheelchair marathon.

Seven white men were arrested in the attack in the town of Welkom in the conservative province of Orange Free State. Police said they had not yet established a motive, but the men were held under the country's Internal Security Act, suggesting a political motive was suspected.

White extremists in South Africa have grown increasingly restless over the ruling party's gradual implementation of racial reform policies. (UPI)

LONDON: In the words of the old song, the British "do love to be beside the seaside."

While two of the UK's most famous seaside towns — Brighton and Blackpool — have always been popular here, they are beginning to attract increasing visitors from abroad, include the Middle East.

Of the two, Blackpool is far better known to revellers from the Middle East, who arrive there in greater numbers every year. (KUNA)

TORONTO: A Canadian town that claims to be the birthplace of the model for Winnie-the-Pooh wants to erect a statue of the famous bear, but Walt Disney studios will not let it.

"Winnie-the-Pooh is a Canadian," said Tom Bagdon, president of the Chamber of Commerce in White River, Ontario, about 50 miles (80 km) north of Lake Superior.

"We don't understand why Disney gave us such an abrupt answer. We feel they have a movie and a half here in the true story of Winnie." (Reuter)

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# Kremlin threatens to consider rearmament

Latest effort to pressure West

BONN, May 14, (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze yesterday said the Kremlin might consider some form of rearmament or break the INF treaty if NATO approves a plan to upgrade its short-range nuclear missiles.

The veiled threat was the latest Soviet effort to pressure the West into a new round of arms talks, and centred on an issue that has caused debate within NATO.

Shevardnadze met with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for four hours yesterday in talks that focussed on the contentious missile issue.

The United States wants NATO approval this month on a plan to upgrade by 1995 the European-based Lance missile system, which would effectively triple the range of the nuclear-armed weapons.



Shevardnadze addresses journalists at a press conference in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

But West Germany, where most of the 88 missiles are based, has balked at the plan and is pressing for superpower talks on reducing all forms of short-range nuclear weapons.

West Germans are strongly against missile modernisation and fear they would suffer the most in the event of war.

Shevardnadze said the modernisation project was tantamount to "development of a new weapons system," and he said the Kremlin would not want to have to take a similar step.

"This would have to be considered, but it would not be our own choice," Shevardnadze warned at a news conference before returning to Moscow.

NATO plans to replace the Lance missiles, which have a range of less than 75 miles (120 kilometres), with missiles capable of reaching up to 300 miles (482 kilometres). That would keep them just within the limits allowed under the 1987 accord.

Shevardnadze likened the new missiles NATO plans to develop to the Soviet SS-23s that are being removed and dismantled under the December 1987 accord on elimination of medium-range missiles.

"Why should we liquidate the SS-23 if the other side is creating and will deploy an analogous Lance-2 rocket?" the foreign minister said. "It makes no sense to destroy these rockets then."

He said destruction of the SS-23, one of the missiles covered under the 1987 superpower agreement to liquidate all intermediate-range nuclear forces, INF would have to be halted "or we would have to create a new system."

Suspension of the SS-23 liquidation would violate the superpower treaty.

The United States has repeatedly said it wants a balance of conventional arms in Europe before entering into talks aimed at eliminating short-range missiles.

Moscow and Washington are already embarked on efforts to get rid of long-range and medium-range missiles, and NATO officials argue that a short-range nuclear option is necessary to defend against an attack by the Warsaw Pact's superior conventional forces.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced last week during Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Moscow that the Kremlin would unilaterally cut its short-range strength by 500 warheads, and he called again for negotiations on the remaining nuclear arms.

The move has been met with only a lukewarm response by Washington.

Baker deemed the Kremlin gesture "a good step, but a small step."

US President George Bush yesterday said, "Let him do what he says unilaterally. It would be good."

"We've already removed 2,000 nuclear weapons, and it would be nice to have him (Gorbachev) go ahead and make some moves," Bush said.

US national security adviser Brent Scowcroft accused Gorbachev of executing a publicity play aimed at splitting the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

## Soviets seize Japanese boat

TOKYO, May 14, (AP): The Soviet Union has seized a Japanese fishing boat in Soviet waters, an official from the Maritime Safety Agency said today.

Agency spokesman Mitsuru Akiyama said the No. 103 Koryo Maru, a 125-ton trawler with 16 crewmembers aboard, was seized southeast of Cape Nossap, 1,091 kilometres (682 miles) northwest of Tokyo, at around 2.45 am yesterday.

He said the fishing boat was within territory claimed by the Soviets.

# LDP's gamble for power fails again

TOKYO, May 14, (Reuters): Japan's ruling politicians appear to have lost the gamble that they could survive the Recruit scandal and maintain the status quo by putting up an untainted party veteran as a temporary figurehead.

Former Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito on Friday refused Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's job and yesterday the

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said it bowed to the decision.

The tactic had worked before for the LDP during the Lockheed bribery scandal which unseated then-premier Kakuei Tanaka.

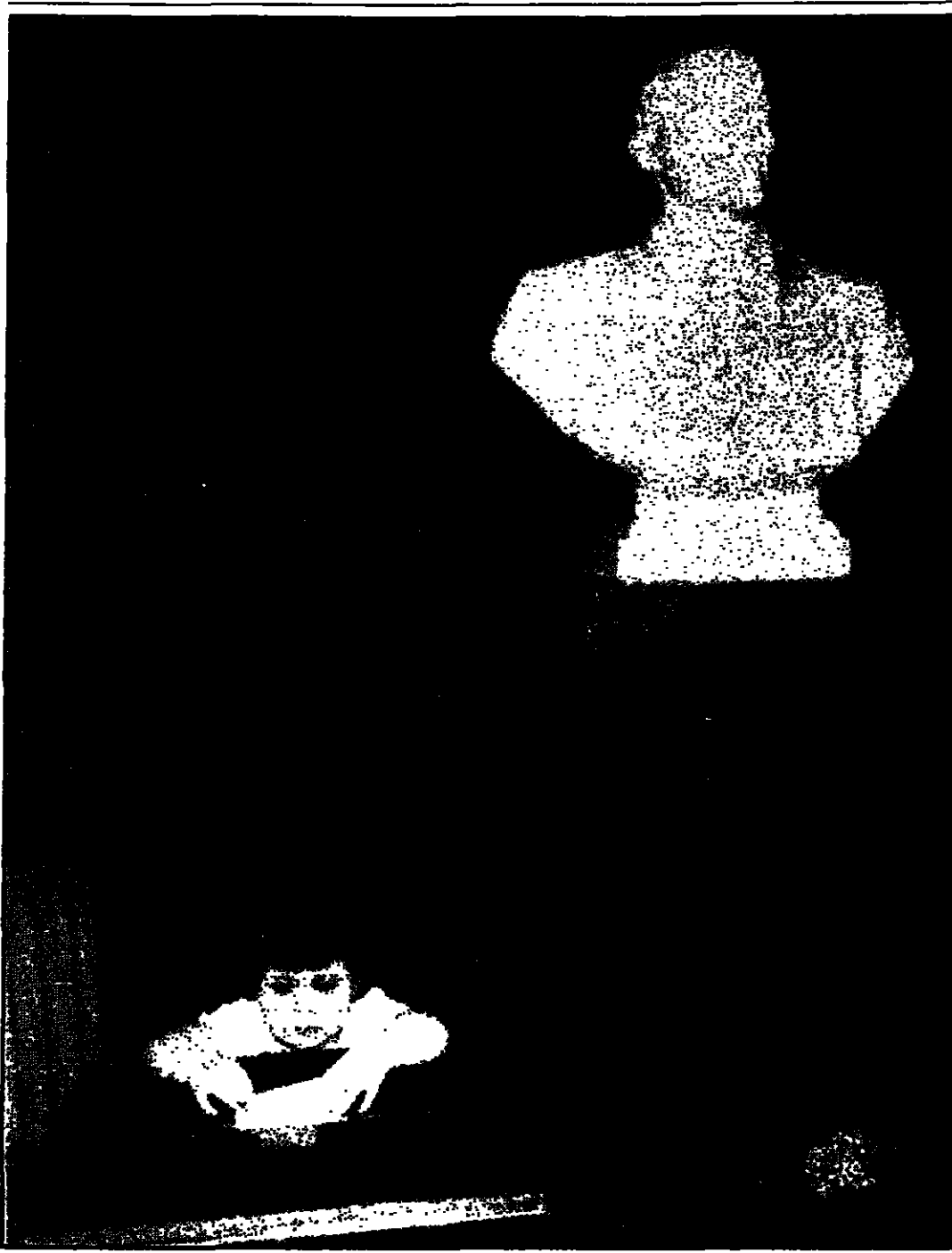
"It was clear the LDP wanted to do the same thing they did in the 1970s when they suffered from the Lockheed affair. Only it

did not work," said Jesper Koff, a political analyst with Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who is here researching Japanese politics.

"Takeshita tried to establish his own cabinet (under Ito) which Ito didn't like. The LDP is still not prepared to clean up things after the scandal, while Ito thinks a

new wind has to blow through Japan's politics," he said.

Despite allegations that Tanaka had skimmed millions of dollars from the Lockheed affair, the LDP ploy of replacing him with a political "Mr Clean" rescued the party's image and secured its future because public anger was dissipated by the lack of a clear target.



## Second round

SO many candidates have answered the official Soviet call to contest elections for the country's new Parliament that run-off polls could still fail to fill all the seats.

The second-round voting is in 198 constituencies where only one or two candidates stood in the first round on March 26 yet failed to win the necessary 50 per cent of the poll.

Dozens of establishment figures fell as voters exercised their first real choice in 70 years.

But the signs are that so many candidates have now come forward for some of the undecided seats that none can hope to take half the vote. According to the official

news agency Tass, 1,216 are standing — an average of six per constituency.

Any indecisive results would mean another round of run-offs between the two leading candidates in each seat.

But these could probably not be held before the 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies convenes on May 25 with the key task of electing a smaller Supreme Soviet to approve or reject government policy, in contrast to its rubber-stamp predecessor.

A little girl casting (above) her mother's vote under a bust of Lenin in a Moscow district. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Acid test of resolve for UNEP members

Action needed

NAIROBI, May 14, (Reuters): Delegates from 70 countries meet here tomorrow to set the stage for environmental action in the 1990s, in what a UN official calls an "acid test" of resolve.

Some 200 delegates, including ministers from industrialised and developing nations, are expected to attend the May 15-26 conference of the governing council of the Nairobi-based UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

"The challenge is to get something done, and not just to be talking about it," UNEP executive director Mostafa Tolba, told reporters at a briefing last week.

Dramatic "This is going to be the acid test," he added, noting a dramatic increase in concern for the environment — which recent public opinion polls have shown is a major issue for people and policy-makers across the globe.

The conference follows important international accords, including one signed in March by 43 countries of the Basle convention on movement and disposal of hazardous wastes, and another in Helsinki this month in which 80 countries backed stronger measures to save the earth's protective ozone layer.

The measures include plans to ban the production and use of damaging chemicals by the turn

of the century.

"I think this year will be the start of a new era of international co-operation," declared Tolba.

A Harris poll of public and leadership opinion in 14 developed and developing countries, sponsored by UNEP and published last Tuesday, showed support for government to adopt much stronger policies to protect the environment.

"Many of the persons polled accepted that this could entail personal sacrifices such as higher taxation," commented UNEP.

The governing council will set out the UNEP programme for the coming two years, and fix a budget for the organisation.

Tolba has indicated that extra funding will be needed if an expanded programme is to be carried out, and is proposing a rise from \$40 million in 1989 to \$100 million by 1992.

An eight-member international team has come within a day's walk from the North Pole on a 620-mile (998 km) trek to underscore the dangers of global pollution, the mission's headquarters said yesterday.

The mission's co-ordinating office in this Canadian capital said the team was expected to complete its trip and return tomorrow by plane to Ellesmere island in the Northwest territories. It began its journey there March 20, (AP)

## Storm kills 8 as rain eases drought in Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 14, (Reuters): Eight people were killed and at least 100 injured in a rainstorm last night that weather officials said has substantially eased a drought across Bangladesh.

They said winds up to 80 km (50 miles) an hour flattened hundreds of thatched homes, uprooted trees and disrupted power supplies. But widespread rains they brought pushed temperatures down to 36 degrees Centigrade (96 Fahrenheit).

The longest drought in 40 years prevailed for nearly two months with temperatures rising to 44°C (112°F). It baked crops, dried up canals and wells and made millions jobless.

"The rain eased substantially the drought in 25 districts, mostly in north Bangladesh," one weather official said today. He said more rain was expected in the next few days.

A heatwave in the midst of the drought has killed at least 60 people, forcing authorities to shut schools in the affected areas.

Volunteers set up emergency clinics to treat thousands of villagers suffering from dehydration, fever, boils and lung diseases caused by high temperatures.

Agriculture officials estimate the drought has damaged nearly two million tonnes of rice and jute.

## Lack of medication killed Pope John Paul I

LONDON, May 14, (AP): A book on Pope John Paul I's sudden death after a 33-day reign in 1978 concludes he felt unfit for the papal throne and so burdened by the office that he stopped taking vital medication, the Sunday Times said.

John Paul I, elected as head of the Roman Catholic church on Aug 26, 1978, was found dead weeks later — the morning of Sept 29, 1978 — in his bed in the Vatican apartment. He was nearly 66 years old and, it was reported, had not been ill. The Vatican said he died of a heart attack. No autopsy was performed.

The Sunday Times is publishing edited excerpts of "A Thief in the Night" by journalist John Cornwell, who is quoted as saying the Vatican encouraged his investigations in the hope he would conclusively disprove murder conspiracy theories.

No one was available for comment yesterday at the Vatican press office and no one answered the telephone at the home of spokesman Joaquin Navarro.

Theories of foul play, intrigues and power struggles between Vatican colleagues of the Pope developed after the death, fueled later by

a scandal involving the Vatican Bank and its links to the 1982 collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano.

In 1984, David Iallop's book, "In God's Name" alleged the pontiff was poisoned because he intended to crack down on corruption in the Vatican.

Cornwell said he found the Pope had been taking medication for a serious blood-clotting condition that he recognised as a "matter of life and death," according to the Sunday Times.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 20,000 evacuated

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 14, (AP): An estimated 20,000 people were evacuated from their homes in the southern Melbourne suburb of Moorabbin today after a paper parcel with wires attached was found on top of a liquid petroleum gas tank at a gas station, police said.

The area was sealed off for more than three hours before residents were allowed to return to their homes. Locals were told to congregate at nearby schools and sports fields while police and Army bomb disposal experts checked the package.

A police spokesman, who did not identify himself, said the suspected bomb was apparently a hoax. The police were investigating the incident, the spokesman said.

### Peronists scent victory

BUENOS AIRES, May 14, (Reuters): Argentina's Peronist Party prepared to celebrate election victory as latest opinion polls show its charismatic presidential candidate, Carlos Menem, was favourite to win today's poll.

Peronist campaign aides bustled themselves on Saturday with details of celebrations they expect will break out hours after voting ends, especially in front of the Buenos Aires Hotel where the populist Menem is setting up headquarters.

Menem held an eight point lead over the ruling party's contender Eduardo Angeloz.

Over 20 million Argentines were registered to vote in the poll in which half of Congress will also be renewed. Polls opened in the morning.

The polls will mark the first time in 37 years a democratic Argentine government holds elections to choose a new president. In that period four civilian administrations were toppled by military coups.

### Earthquake rocks Kermadec

WASHINGTON, May 14, (UPI): A strong earthquake rocked the Kermadec Islands in the south Pacific today, the US Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The quake was measured by USGS earthquake monitors in Golden, Colorado, at a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 on the Richter scale. USGS spokesman Don Findley said.

The tremor occurred at 1 pm local time today. It was centred in the Kermadec Islands, about 850 miles (1,360 km) north of Wellington, New Zealand.

### 500 AIDS cases in Thailand

BANGKOK, May 14, (Reuters): More than 500 AIDS cases have been recorded in the northern Thai commercial and tourist centre of Chiang Mai, the Nation newspaper said today.

The daily said figures compiled by provincial authorities raised fears about prostitution that has accompanied a tourist boom in the town.

### Brawl injures five people

MOSCOW, May 14, (AP): A brawl between 300 Armenians and Azerbaijanis injured five people in continued ethnic strife in Nagorno-Karabakh this week, the official Tass news agency said yesterday.

The fight on Wednesday night in the Marakert district of Stepanakert, the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, continued with continuing strikes to keep the situation tense, Tass said.

### Protest against nuclear waste

LONDON, May 14, (AP): A stone-crushing plant on the west coast of Scotland was wrecked by fire yesterday night in a protest against the nuclear waste disposal industry, an anonymous caller said.

An unidentified man who telephoned the Press Association Domestic News Agency in London early today said the four-storey plant at Glenasmole granite quarry near Oban was bombed with commercial explosives by the Scottish National Liberation Army (SNLA) because the real purpose of the quarry was to be a site for the disposal of civilian and military nuclear waste. Commercial explosives are used for blasting in quarrying.

## Aborigines want to stay

# Angry Veddah

COLOMBO, May 14, (KUNA): Ninety-year old Huruvarige Tissahamy is the undisputed leader of the fast-diminishing Veddah (a much-abused Sinhala term for Sri Lanka's aborigines) community in the island.

There are no more than 5,000 members of this tribe, who have been living in the jungles of Sri Lanka for centuries and their ethnic compositions and origins are very much similar to the Red Indians in America and the Aborigines of Australia.

Tissahamy, who sports a flowing white beard, bare-bodied with an axe thrown over his shoulder and covers his nakedness only with a span-cloth, is an angry and disillusioned man. He worries for his clan which has lived mainly in the backwoods of Dambana in Mahiyangana, about 200 kilometres south-east of Colombo.

Modern development projects have driven his people out of their traditional habitat. The government had offered to settle them in lands in the Mahaveli Development Project areas — the largest agro-irrigation project ever undertaken in Sri Lanka with massive aid pumped from the developed world.

But Tissahamy obstinately refuses to migrate. He went to courts and won a legal battle against the eviction of his clan.

Now Tissahamy wants the authorities to allocate 5,000 acres of land for his people to live in the traditional homeland.

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## Peace strategy Arafat hopes for summit support

AMMAN, May 14, (Reuters): Yasser Arafat goes to an Arab summit next week in search of solid backing to reverse recent setbacks to a widely-acclaimed Palestinian peace strategy intended to end Israel's 22-year-old rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO leader's diplomatic drive, generated in part by the 17-month-long Palestinian intifada (uprising), lost some impetus after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir proposed local elections in the occupied territories. It suffered a further blow last

### ANALYSIS

week when the World Health Organisation postponed for a year a decision on his bid to gain full membership for the self-declared state of Palestine.

Arafat, taking his seat for the first time as President of the state proclaimed last November, now needs the stamp of approval from the Arab kings, amirs and presidents who will meet in Casablanca, Morocco, on May 23.

His prestige has surged dramatically in the 18 months since an Arab League summit in Amman paid only cursory attention to the concerns of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule catapulted the PLO back onto the international stage with the newly-stated goal of seeking an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to co-exist with Israel.

Palestinians viewed the latest reversals as the temporary results of an Israeli propaganda offensive which would soon run out of steam.

But they said the emergency summit, called by Morocco's King Hassan, was an ideal way to underline Arab backing for Arafat's strategy, which Israel has consistently rejected.

Arafat diplomats predicted that a consensus would emerge at Casablanca in favour of the PLO's new policies.

"An Arab endorsement will help the PLO to keep up with its moderate strategy and resist pressure from hardliners," one diplomat said. "It will also raise the credibility of the PLO in the eyes of the West, especially the United States."

The diplomats said Libya's fury at Arafat's recognition of Israel would be muted by its isolation and they predicted that headline Syria would register only reservations.

"The Syrians will say Arafat is mistaken in thinking he can win gains from Israel or the Americans by making concessions, but they will not make a big issue of it because they need all their ammunition for the debate on Lebanon," one diplomat said.

Egypt's expected return to the Arab League will bring a heavy-weight ally of the PLO back into the heart of Arab councils for the first time since 1979 when most Arabs shunned Cairo for its peace treaty with Israel.

"The PLO has felt the pinch of Egypt's absence more than anyone else in the past years," Mohammed Milhem, an Amman-based member of the PLO executive committee, said.

PLO officials say they would welcome elections as long as they form part of an overall peace package leading to an independent state.

## Syria welcomes Egypt's return to Arab fold

DAMASCUS, May 14, (AP): Syria indicated today it no longer objected to Egypt's return to the Arab League, saying President Mubarak's expected participation at an Arab summit conference in Morocco was a "positive development."

Improved relations between Syria, the spearhead of Arab radicalism, and Egypt, ostracised by Arabs after signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Kourieh said: "Syria supports and approves the return of Egypt to its natural place in the (Arab) struggle against Israel. He did not mention the Arab League specifically, but the statement indicated a change in Syria's earlier stand refusing Egypt's readmission to the 22-member League."

Hafez Assad and Mubarak were "old friends," and that Assad "is aware that President Mubarak is not Anwar Sadat," the late Egyptian President who signed the Camp David treaty, making Egypt the first Arab country to make peace with Israel.

"Syria asserts that the presence of President Mubarak at the summit is a positive development," Kourieh said.

Syrian Oil Minister Mutianus Habib said last week that his country does not object to Egypt's return to Arab organisations. He spoke during a meeting of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries in Kuwait.

## Khaddafi in surprise talks with King Hassan

CASABLANCA, Morocco, May 14, (Reuters): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi held surprise talks yesterday with Morocco's King Hassan, 10 days before an emergency Arab summit on Middle East peace diplomacy.

Khaddafi was met at Casablanca airport by King Hassan and the Moroccan news agency MAP said the Libyan leader was on a "friendship and working visit."

No details of the talks emerged and Khaddafi left Morocco last night just hours after his unexpected arrival.

The talks were believed to have focused on the upcoming summit which the king has called to back Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Middle East peace strategy.

Libya is one of the few Arab countries which has not yet announced it will attend the May 23-24 Casablanca summit. Egypt will attend for the first time since it was expelled from the Arab fold for its 1979 Camp David peace treaty with Israel.

Libya, Syria and Lebanon are the only Arab countries which have not resumed diplomatic relations with Cairo.

Khaddafi has long supported Palestinian radicals opposed to Arafat's leadership of the PLO and has criticised his statements renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist.

But diplomatic sources said he would not want to be left on the sidelines, particularly if all other states in the newly-created Arab Maghreb Union attended the summit.

Palestinian sources said they had been trying to persuade Libya to take part.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat stopped briefly in Cairo yesterday to discuss preparations for the emergency Arab League summit in Morocco later this month.



Empty canister

Two Afghan boys play with the empty canisters of a Soviet made anti-tank missile in Kabul. The boys found the weapons in the Panjshir valley outside Kabul where there has been fighting between government forces and Afghan rebels who control the valley. (Reuters wire-photo)

## Mullah in jail: Egypt denies charges

FAYOUM, Egypt, May 14, (AP): A fiery Muslim preacher in this central Egyptian oasis town has been imprisoned, but his followers vow to carry on his struggle for an Islamic state.

The preacher's fundamentalist adherents have put up posters on walls, fences and poles in Fayoum warning of the "Advance of God's soldiers."

The incarceration of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman points to the delicate position the generally secular government of overwhelmingly Muslim Egypt must take toward a periodically restive fundamentalist movement.

Abdel-Rahman, who is blind, is a former theology professor at Assiut University south of Fayoum and one of Egypt's best-known dissident Islamic fundamentalists. He was twice tried and acquitted on charges relating to Oct 6, 1981, assassination of President Anwar Sadat and a failed Islamic extremist coup attempt that followed it.

Police said he was arrested April 7 in his Fayoum hometown 63 miles (101 kms) southwest of Cairo, as he led worshippers from his mosque to demonstrate against the government.

Since then, about 1,500 fundamentalists have been rounded up in a nation-wide crackdown that Interior Minister Zaki Badr said was to protect the community from extremist groups.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights watchdog, mentioned Abdel-Rahman on Wednesday in a news release claiming that Egyptian authorities allow torture and other mistreatment of political prisoners, often fundamentalists.

The Interior Ministry denied all the charges. It said torture is not used in Egyptian jails and that the people Amnesty called political prisoners were extremists whose plots against the state had been intercepted.

The following day, the London-based Islamic Council of Europe discussed Abdel-Rahman in a statement contending that he is without access to attorneys and family members and is denied medicines and food necessitated by a diabetic condition.

"He looked much thinner when I saw him," said his son Abdullah, 14, who claims he saw his father more than a week ago for only the second time since his detention. "He is diabetic and needs special food and medicine. The prison authorities won't let us send him anything or even see him."

Maj. Gen. Mohammed Mahran, Fayoum's chief of security, said Friday he has turned over the blind cleric to prosecutors and is no longer responsible for him, but he denied the mistreatment allegations.

An emergency law in effect since Sadat's assassination gives security personnel wide leeway in making arrests and allows virtual indefinite detention without trial.

## Druze give blood to Palestinians Trying to improve image

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 14, (Reuters): A group of Israeli Druze Arabs, anxious to change a reputation for being brutal soldiers, gave blood today to Palestinians wounded in the uprising but got a mixed reception at the hospital.

"We don't want your blood, we want to hear your voices raised against your government's occupation of our land," shouted a West Bank Arab visiting a relative wounded in a clash with troops.

About 30 Arabs of the Druze Initiative Committee from villages in northern Galilee travelled 200 km (125 miles) to donate blood at Mokassed Hospital in Arab East Jerusalem.

"We have come here as a humanitarian act, as a gesture in solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and to repair the damage to the name of the Druze by a few of our people," said their leader, Sheikh Jamal Ma'ad.

Palestinians have accused Israeli Druze, who serve mainly in the paramilitary border police, of brutality towards protesters in the 17-month uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Druze were among seven border policemen suspended last week during Army investigations into a raid on Nahalin village in the West Bank in which five Palestinians were killed.

The Druze were members of a secretive offshoot of Islam. Those in Galilee opted for Israeli citizenship when the Jewish state was created in 1948 and are subject to the same laws as Jews, including compulsory military service.

"People forget that only a small number of incidents in the occupied territories are the work of the border police and only a small portion of the border police are Druze. The majority are Arabic-speaking Jews," Ma'ad said.

One donor, a Druze from the village of Yarka who identified himself as Arid, said many of his brethren were in jail for refusing to serve in the armed forces and some were on the run as draft-dodgers.

"Many of us are against serving in the occupied Arab territories. We are part of the Palestinian people and for this we came today to give blood to our wounded Palestinian brothers," he said.

He said the committee sent food and medicine to Palestinians in the occupied territories, including Nahalin.

Some Palestinians at the hospital remained unconvinced.



Ma'ad with a nurse after donating blood (Reuters wire photo)

## Kabul threat dismissed

Najib in control

NEW DELHI, May 14, (AP): Afghanistan's foreign minister, visiting India yesterday, jokingly dismissed a Muslim rebel threat to launch a major attack on Kabul, the Afghan capital.

"They are welcome. We are looking forward to this," Abdul Wakil said in a mixture of English and Afghanistan's Dari Persian language.

The guerrilla-run Afghan News Agency reported earlier yesterday from Pakistan that 30,000 mujahedeen, or Islamic holy warriors, would launch an attack on Kabul "very soon," though no date was given.

Wakil asserted that the government of Najibullah, who uses one name was still in control of Kabul, although nearly three months had passed since the Soviet Union withdrew the last of combat troops who had helped fight the war against the mujahedeen for the past nine years.

Reports from Kabul indicated little sign of military activity. The rebels, who are struggling to make a transition from guerrilla warfare to more conventional tactics, have in the past failed to follow their reports of planned action with assaults.

The mujahedeen have been besieging Jalalabad, 125 kms (75 miles) east of Kabul since March 6, but have failed to dislodge government troops.

Wakil spoke at a news conference in New Delhi, where he met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Defence Minister K.C. Pant and Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao during a 12-hour, overnight visit.

The Afghan foreign minister said he expected India to increase its shipments of food and medicine to Kabul, but he gave no dates or figures. India is the only non-Soviet bloc country known to be sending aid to President Najibullah's Moscow-style government.

Najibullah has urged the country's highest authority to extend a state of emergency declared after Soviet troops left Kabul.

## Palestinians in Israel

AMMAN, May 14, (KUNA): The Israeli population last year increased by 1.7 per cent and the Palestinians increased by four per cent, Israeli Central Census Bureau said.

The data said the number of Palestinians in Israel is 835,000. The occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were not included in the census, but previously released information about the occupied areas' population showed the West Bank had 1.3 million inhabitants and Gaza had about 700,000, bringing the number of Palestinians in the occupied land to two million.

## Iran weeds out drug pushers

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 14, (AP): Twenty-four drug traffickers were convicted by the Islamic courts and publicly hanged yesterday in eight Iranian cities, Tehran Radio reported.

The report, monitored in Nicosia, said that the executed were all "professional drug smugglers, with links to other professional drug trafficking rings."

The traffickers had been found guilty of smuggling and distributing a total of 11,000 kilos (24,250 pounds) of narcotics, the radio said.

But two men hanged in the western city of Sahneh, were caught with just one kilogram of heroin between the two of them, the radio reported.

Another man hanged in the northern city of Karadj was caught with only 77 grams of heroin, according to the radio. But the radio said that they had other, unspecified charges against them which mandated the death sentence.

## Jibril denies involvement in Pan Am bombing

WASHINGTON, May 19, (KUNA): Head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Ahmed Jibril, denied that his organisation was involved in the bombing of the Pan Am Flight 103 last December, according to the next issue of the US News and World report.

In a wide-ranging interview with the US News, Jibril said that he has received no money from Iran. "We know the accusation is not true, and the CIA knows it, but they want to sully our reputation."

According to the magazine, German police have recovered four barometer-triggered bombs from the PFLP-GC alleged elements believed to be responsible for the bombing of Flight 103.

Responding to the CIA accusation Jibril added: "They want PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to go forward with his concessions to the Israelis without having a credible substitute among other Palestinian leaders."

US intelligence officials claim that the PFLP-GC and Iran's Revolutionary Guards, in meetings immediately following the downing of an Iranian airliner by the USS Vincennes, plotted revenge on the United States.

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## Citizenship

Lebanese Christian Army Commander General Michel Aoun, hands Frederique Deniau, wife of former French Foreign Minister Jean-Francois, a Lebanese passport in East Beirut. Some 30 French citizens were granted Lebanese citizenship.

## Ben Ali, Dumas hold talks on ME

TUNIS, May 14, (KUNA): Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali yesterday discussed a large number of issues with visiting French External Affairs Minister Roland Dumas.

Dumas told reporters that the discussions covered next month's visit of President Francois Mitterrand to Tunis and bilateral relations.



# Five-Year Plan targets nationals

## Expatriates needed for 25 years

ABDUL RAHMAN Al Awadi, minister of planning said yesterday that the Higher Planning Council has submitted the Five-Year Plan to the government.

The strategic plan is aimed mainly at the Kuwaiti individual and will help boost his efforts so that he can carry the responsibility of the future, Awadi was quoted as having said in a local daily. The state will carry out many projects to achieve this goal within the framework of the Five-Year Plan the minister added.

Commenting on the issues of granting permanent residence to some categories of non-Kuwaitis, Awadi said: "Permanent residence for selected categories is one of the proposals — but it is not as elucidated in some local papers."

He went on to state that granting permanent residence status is a procedure followed by several countries around the world. "Kuwait needs to emphasise that it cannot continue importing expatriates and building the country with imported manpower."

Kuwait welcomes every Arab and non-Arab person contributing to building a better Kuwait, but, we will not accept non-productive persons, Awadi

added. He went on to state that granting permanent residence is a preliminary step to obtaining a Kuwaiti nationality. However, to enact this scheme needs an in-depth study and consequently time by the Higher Planning Council. The proposal will be discussed during the discussion to be held on the issue of demographic balance of population, Awadi said.

**Basis**  
Asked whether the Five-Year Plan will focus on the private sector, Awadi said that "the private sector is the essential basis of the Five-Year Plan on which basis Kuwait is to be built by its people."

The private sector will be asked to assist and has to have a social responsibility. "We are with every sector that will help in developing and building the country" the minister was quoted as saying.

Continuing, he said that the private sector owns 70 per cent of the total manpower in the country which is estimated at 200,000 workers. The concept of handing over some activities presently undertaken by the state is under consideration, the official added.

The higher educational institutions and universities cannot continue providing the local

market with graduates whose expertise is not needed, the official said. "We do not want the state to bear costs of any kind toward educating personnel who will ultimately not find job opportunities in their particular specialisations" the official said and added that a balance should be worked out on the education specialisations in keeping with the needs of the local market — whether these needs be for the government or the private sector.

He further added that there are committees working in co-operation with the university and applied institutes to co-ordinate between outputs of these institutes and actual needs of the market. Benefiting from the output of higher education is the responsibility of both the private and government sectors, Awadi said.

He added that the private sector has the potential for absorbing the services of graduates. Priority will be given to Kuwaiti nationals, he said, but commented that Kuwait will remain in need of expatriates for the coming 25 years. This is because there are jobs that cannot be undertaken by Kuwaiti nationals. As an example he said: "Kuwait needs 3,000 physicians, but have only 600."



Dr Rasha Al Sabah

# Divorces can help society

THE wife of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikhha Latifa Al Fahad Al Sabah patronised a seminar organised by the Community Service and Continued Education Centre of Kuwait University on the theme "Divorce" at the Plaza Hotel on Saturday evening.

Assistant Rector for Community Service and Information Affairs at Kuwait University Dr Rasha Al Sabah speaking on the occasion said that the centre studies society problems to

recommend solutions which are the goals the society has established.

The first seminar related to the narcotic problem and the second on the problems of divorce. She added that when Allah permitted divorce he desired to solve problems within families and society. Divorce is not intended to harm or destroy the family. Islam mentioned the justification of permitting divorce which contributes to a strong and stable society. She concurred that many people misuse this right of

divorce. They believe it is an absolute right. "Building a strong society mainly depends on building a strong family," she added.

The assistant director of the centre Dr Mohammed Al Sarawi expressed the hope that the seminar will contribute to practical solutions on the problem of divorce of which the Arab world is suffering.

In a related development, Sheikhha Al Sabah will organise its third and last seminar within the cultural season 1988/1989 on

the theme "Child Raising" to be held on 23 and 24 May, 1989 at Kuwait Plaza Hotel.

The seminar will be attended by specialists from the Ministries of Public Health, Social Affairs and Labour, the Higher Education Council, the Public Authority for Minors Affairs, Kuwait Society for the Advancement of the Arab Childhood, Road Safety Society, Kuwait Medical Association, Kuwait Women Cultural and Social Society, Bayader Al Salam Society and Girl Club.

## BAHRAIN DIGEST

### Controlling pollution

GLOBAL environmental issues are receiving increasing attention as most of the developing nations in the world have been responsive to the environmental problems in their respective lands and to the world of large in line with the UN's frequent appeal to protect the world's environment, according to a top UN official in Bahrain.

In an interview with the Arab Times, Wali Shah Wali, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, Bahrain highlighted the progress of the developing countries efforts related to environmental issues at a recent regional meeting of the UNDP held in Malta.

The meeting of Malta called for all countries in the world to follow the concept of 'sustainable development' to ensure that natural resources of any country are not depleted while economic development is being pursued, explained Shah.

He added that experts discussed anti-pollution measures focusing on air and water pollution, treatment of water, transportation of toxic material and the problem of pollution because of industrial operations.

According to Shah one of the objectives of the Malta meeting was also to determine the formulation and implementation of necessary legislation to curb pollution.

He said that most countries are showing increasing concern about serious and potentially dangerous global environmental issues including the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect.

## Authorised nurseries safer

ADNAN AH Al Omar, the director of Hawalli Governorate Labour Department has said that authorised nurseries provide parents with many safeguards such as health and security inspections.

Interviewed by a local daily, he added that several incidents have been reported of baby-sitters who are unqualified to provide such services.

Omar stressed that there is a unified level stipulated to be charged by nurseries accredited to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. He criticised mothers who leave children with unauthorised baby-sitters, adding that authorised baby-sitters are regularly inspected by officials of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. "Accredited baby-sitters should have specific educational qualifications" Omar added.

One mother said that it is unsafe to leave babies with unauthorised baby sitters. She stressed that checking up on nurseries is highly important and called upon officials to provide such specialised services at remote areas and at areas that do not have any authorised facilities.

Daniat Sulaiman Al Sheikh, the owner of a private nursery said that authorised nurseries provide children with safety, security and an educational atmosphere. Nurseries authorised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour undergo random inspections. Such nurseries are spacious in order to give children a better environment. She stressed that children cared for at these nurseries will adapt better in schools than children who have been supervised by unauthorised personnel.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Public Health announced it is studying the feasibility of withdrawing the services of nurses working in intermediate schools as from the beginning of the academic year 1989/1990, according to an official source.

The expertise of these nurses could possibly be utilised to meet shortage in nurses at hospitals and different health centres. The ministry is of the opinion that nurses in schools are no longer necessary because of the availability of nearby health centres.



Fire in Kheltan.

Farwaniya firemen yesterday managed to put out a fire that had broken out in one of the shops in Old Kheltan and reached the two shops next in line as well as a car standing nearby.

It took firemen three hours to bring the fire under control, but no one was injured. The fire spread to the other shops through their wooden ceilings. Photo by Ahmad Bourini

## Wells to be dug

### Kuwaiti aid for Sudan

KHARTOUM, May 14, (KUNA): Kuwait has responded favourably to a request by Sudan to help in the relief campaign mounted by international relief organisations in southern Sudan.

The Sudanese request was made to the Ambassador of Kuwait Abdalla Al Seraye during a meeting with the Minister of Social Affairs and Relief Dr Ohag Mohammad Mousa.

Sudan wanted Kuwait to contribute towards the campaign by

providing fuel for the relief aircraft from Khartoum, Nairobi and Kampala to south Sudan. Ambassador Al Seraye expressed the readiness of his country to assist in that respect and in any way to help in the success of the relief campaign.

The ambassador added that Kuwait has a complete plan for digging wells in the rural areas in the Sudan.

Dr Mousa thanked Kuwait for its valuable assistance to the Sudan, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said.

## Present figure unrealistic

### Expats unhappy with salary stipulation

EXPATRIATES in Kuwait face some problems which cannot be surmounted particularly when any of them wants to bring his family to live with him or when they would like to bring their parents here.

If the expatriate is working in the private sector and wants his wife to join him he will be requested to submit a salary certificate showing that he is earning KD650 or for government employees a salary certificate of KD450 must be produced.

To highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of residents to find out their impressions and suggestions in this connection. Anwar Ibrahim said that life without his wife is difficult and the presence of the family members would benefit the economic cycle of country and eventually increase expenditure and minimize the external flow of funds. He added that the salary condition was impossible as 90 per cent of expatriates are not receiving the stipulated salary, noting that this figure should be lowered.

Another resident said that the procedures applied in this connection were unjustified, clarifying that there are many families living in the country even though their incomes are less than KD400 per month. He called on the authorities to review the salary conditions by reducing the required salary limit in order to enable expatriates to bring their wives here and re-unite the family.

Mohammed Jamil described the salary condition as a difficult one, pointing out that owing to the situation prevailing in the private sector at present only a few people are being paid the required salary.

He called for more flexibility in the law, adding that a salary of KD300 should be enough for the expatriate to bring his family here.

Fadya Al Barq said that this law requires more flexibility adding that it is unreasonable to make a retired person leave Kuwait because his sons were not receiving a sufficient salary, adding that the humanitarian aspect should be considered. She also said that the required salary should be revised and should not exceed KD300.

Bassam Al Dajni said that there are many people here whose circumstances do not allow them to travel home every year and eventually these people will not see their parents at all because their salaries were less than the stipulated limit.

Shereen Fayed, said that the conditions imposed for the bringing of the wife or the parents were very difficult and cause several psychiatric problems.

She called on the authorities concerned to take the necessary action towards solving this problem.

Shehmaz Al Dhaifi, said that the no objection certificate procedures should be applied flexibly in order to enable the expatriates to bring their wives or parents here.

## New phone system evaluated

MINISTER of Communications, Abdullah Al Sharhan, has said that the ministry has started to evaluate the new system it put into operation in Salmiya where the speeded up process of applying for a telephone enables applicants to receive the service within a few days.

In an interview with a local daily, Sharhan said that the system was introduced in Salmiya in order to improve the former lengthy procedures which were a waste of citizen's time.

He added that the system will next be applied in Shurwaikh and then in Hawalli, Nuzha, and Farwaniya.

The minister said that the sorting offices were experiencing difficulties and delays in the sorting of incoming mail as some of the letters from Arab and Asian countries do not have the postal code marked on the envelopes and some envelopes are not of the regulation size specified by the ministry which further delays the process.

He added that the automatic sorting system is very effective but the assistance of the public in using post codes would make it even better.

Sharhan said that the ministry is implementing a new system on sorting the letters in which mail coming from advanced countries is sorted automatically and that from developing countries by hand.



**555**  
Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

# Legal Clinic

AN employee of a local firm has been working in Kuwait for over 10 years. He has been working for more than three years for his present employer. He was hired locally and works on the basis of a regular employment contract. He now wishes to resign and join another company in Kuwait. Can his employer refuse to transfer his work permit? Could his employer, instead have his work permit cancelled, and have him sent out of Kuwait.

I.D.

The new labour law, article 17, clearly states that the "Ministry exempts those who have been residing continuously in Kuwait for a constant period of 10 years" from the provision of the duration (i.e. three years employment with the same employer; article 16). In your case, you've been with the same employer for three years, and can change your job according to the law. An employer has no right to force an employee to leave the country, especially if there is no good reason. If an employer refuses to give the release, you can file a case in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, who'll handle the matter. Actually, most employers threaten with visa cancellation to frighten an employee so that he continues to stay with him. If the employer insists, and refuses to give the release, you can take legal action.

I have been in Kuwait for more than 11 years. My residence was given by a company in October 1988 as I was working with them. In December 1988, my services were terminated. I am still under the sponsorship of the previous employer. Now, I intend to transfer to another sponsor. As I've been in Kuwait for more than 11 years, I trust there will be no difficulty transferring my residence to the present employer even though I worked with the last sponsor for about three months.

A.C. Chacko

Article 17 of the new labour law stipulates that if a person has lived continuously in Kuwait for 10 years or more, it is not necessary to be with the same employer for three years to get a release; it is also not necessary for an employee to complete the

mandatory three years with one sponsor (Article 16). In principle, you'll have no difficulty in transferring to a new sponsor.

\*\*\*

I came to Kuwait in August 1988 to join my husband. I am now on a dependent visa No. 22. I have been offered a job; the company which will sponsor me applied for a work permit, unfortunately it has been rejected twice. Are wives allowed to transfer a dependent visa to a work permit within the new labour law.

Mrs. A. Ashwood

No dependent can change a visa No. 22 (dependent) to No. 18 (work permit). If you want to work, you must cancel your dependent visa and return to your country of origin and then re-enter Kuwait on a new visa. The company which will sponsor you can apply for a work permit, without divulging your present status. If you get the work permit, then you can have your dependent visa cancelled; go back to your country and return to Kuwait. It is not advisable to cancel your dependent visa without obtaining the work permit.

\*\*\*

My friend was falsely accused of excessive usury and lending money under Article 230 by a person. The accusation was made by the person saying that my friend had issued a dud cheque.

My friend appealed and his detention order was revoked but he was deported. During the second case, my friend could not produce the required evidence as he was detained. He was also not provided with a translator to prove his innocence.

The person who made the accusation, had borrowed money and did not refund it, is having a good time.

How can I help my friend? I was told that

according to the Kuwaiti law, there is no provision for a second appeal for such misdemeanour cases.

P. Colaco

Article 230 of the Kuwait Criminal Law stipulates that usury is a criminal offence; this article states that anyone who lends money to a needy person on interest faces a sentence of one year imprisonment or fine, both, or one of them. You friend committed a crime, according to the evidence, and was punished under the law. You can obtain the money by going to court; and the court will decide the exact amount given and will calculate the interest. Such cases are heard by the Court of First Instance and Misdemeanours Court. But a second appeal cannot be made in the Higher Court of Appeals. There is no way to help your friend, because there is no provision for a second appeal for such minor cases. However, you can seek legal help to get back the money from the person who borrowed it. The court will decide the amount of interest accruing on the amount loaned by your friend.

\*\*\*

I am an Indian working in Kuwait for the last 14 years and have changed my sponsor for better prospects. I have not committed any offence. Now, I intend to tender my resignation after working with them for seven years due to old age, and with goodwill for my employers. What are the benefits I am entitled to. I am 61 years old.

Joe E. Gracias

According to the labour law, if you resign you are entitled to get half the settlement of the end of service benefits. The total settlement (end of service indemnity) for an employee in the private sector is 15 days wages for the first five years; and one

month wages for the subsequent years of service. In your case, if you resign, you'll get 7.5 days wages for the first five years and one month's wages for the next two years.

\*\*\*

I am a housemaid. I have a very big problem about my passport and important documents — visa, identity card. My employer keeps all my documents but the problem is that they expired in August last year. I am worried and afraid that I may be jailed. I have not been paid by my employer for seven months. I have asked my employer to do something but every time I ask, he usually ignores my request or humiliates me. I hope you can help me. Please advise me.

Housemaids are not covered by the labour law or the social affairs law. However, your employer can be taken to court to force him to give back your passport and renew your visa and pay your salary. But such action may complicate matters as you will have to pursue the case, and to do so, you'll have to be away from duty. The best way is to talk to your sponsor in a friendly manner and try to convince him about the seriousness of the matter. It is common practice for employers to withhold the passports of employees; a passport is a private, personal document, and keeping a passport is against the law. Perhaps, you can approach your embassy and ask them to speak to your employer, without annoying him.

\*\*\*

I have been working in Kuwait for three years now without taking any vacation leave. I am now planning to take a vacation after four years. I am also entitled for a month's vacation with pay plus a plane ticket on the expense of my company after two years. I would like to know if I can get the said amount from my employer since I didn't take my vacation after two years.

Johnny T. Weissmiller

Yes, you are entitled to get the vacation and a month's leave, according to the terms and conditions mentioned in your

contract. If you are entitled to get an air ticket from the company, you should be able to get it. However, the leave salary will be calculated on the basis of the pay earned by you in that year.

\*\*\*

Please clarify the following: (1) One of my friends came to Kuwait seven years ago and has been working in a private company since then. Now, he wants to join another company. Can he transfer his residence? (2) My friend works on a monthly salary, on an unlimited period contract. Can you clarify the benefits if he resigns; and if he is terminated.

Boland Iqbal

Article 16 of the new labour rules stipulate that an employee can seek a transfer of residence after completing three years of service with one employer. As your friend has worked for seven years with his employer, in principle, he should have no difficulty in transferring his residence. If his employer refuses to transfer the residence, you can take legal action to get a release.

Article 54 of the private sector labour law defines end of service benefits (indemnity). Clause (b) stipulates that a labourer (employed on a monthly wage basis) is entitled to 15-days wages for the first five years of service and a month's wages for every one year of service for the following years. This is the full settlement. If his services are terminated, he gets the full settlement; if he resigns, he gets half the settlement.

\*\*\*

I am in my third quarter of my employment in Kuwait. Now, I am seeking new employment. What steps can I take to cease my current contract to give way to my new found better prospects, without any prejudice.

Dan Alvaro

You've given a very vague description of the duration of employment. It is not clear how long you have been working. Is it above or below three years? If you have worked for more than three years, you can

ask for a transfer of residence, and take up another job. But this depends on whether or not your present employer agrees to give the release. Your employer must agree to give a release; and if he does, you can take the new job with better prospects.

\*\*\*

I am sending the copy of two contracts for your perusal. They are about 20 men hired in the Philippines by Servisco Trading and Contracting Establishment and were made to sign a contract. However, no one signed on behalf of the employer.

Four months after their arrival in Kuwait, they were given another contract — written in Arabic — which they were forced to sign so that they could get their wages. They have no idea what the contract is all about. This is why we are seeking your advice to know their legality. We don't know about the deductions in their wages, and they are working on holidays also.

A.I. Belmote III

The first contract, which is in English, was perhaps made by the recruiting agency to obtain visas. The second contract, written in Arabic, covers terms of employment, including salary, annual leave and favours the labourers as it has been drawn on the terms and conditions of employment, as specified in the private sector labour law, and as such, they are covered by the Kuwaiti law.

In principle, both contracts are valid, provided they are working for the same company which recruited them and is employing them. If they are working for the same company which recruited them, they can go by the contract which is better for them.

\*\*\*

If you have a legal problem, labour or any other kind, send your questions to Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer Khaled Taher replies to readers' queries. Write to Arab Times, PO Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait; or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. If you have any doubts, please call 4813566 ext 285 between 12 noon and 6 pm.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hamdhan departure

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Undersecretary Mohammed Nasser Al Hamdhan Sunday left here for Saudi Arabia to participate in the meetings of the expert committee, assigned to prepare the agenda of the fourth Muslim Awqaf Ministers conference.

The Islamic Awqaf Ministers conference is due to be held in Saudi Arabia on May 17-18. The committee, whose meetings will convene in Jeddah, includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Pakistan, Indonesia and Senegal in addition to Kuwait.

### Amiri audience

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): HH the Amir Sunday received in audience Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

### Environment meet

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi leads Kuwait's delegation to the board meeting of the UN Environment Programme scheduled to be held in Nairobi May 15-26.

Secretary of the Environment Protection Council Ibrahim Al Hadi told KUNA that the meeting will review arrangements for the UN conference on environment and development for the year 2000.

He added that the meeting will follow up recommendations drawn by the environmental protection statement for the year 2000, approved by the UN General Assembly.

The board meeting will review the programme's aim for the next five years, he indicated.

### CISM meeting

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): The Middle East Liaison Centre of the International Council for Military Sports (CISM) opened its 14th meeting here Sunday under the patronage of Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad.

Head of the centre Col. Pilot Mohammed Al Khatib delivered an inaugural statement affirming that the CISM aims at building the most competent soldier.

He called for strengthening relations among peoples of the liaison centre which is one among 13 similar groupings within CISM targeting consolidating friendly relations among the members' armed forces, exchanging expertise and boosting technical co-operation.

## WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.  
State of sea: Slight to moderate  
High water: 9.00 am, 8.00 pm  
Low water: 2.00 am, 2.30 pm  
Sunrise: 4.56 am  
Sunset: 6.33 pm  
Maximum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 38°C 100°F  
Ahmed: 33°C 91°F  
Fahala: 33°C 91°F  
Minimum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F  
Ahmed: 25°C 77°F  
Fahala: 25°C 77°F  
Maximum temperature expected:  
Kuwait: 39°C 102°F  
Ahmed: 34°C 93°F  
Fahala: 34°C 93°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 15 per cent  
Ahmed: 45 per cent  
Fahala: 45 per cent



### Contract signed

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), and the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), yesterday signed a contract to estimate the amount of gases lost during the filling of tankers and vehicles.

KISR will study the quantity of petrol lost in the form of vapour during the process which leads to air pollution. The study will be mainly on the losses in petrol stations during tankers unloading and vehicles filling. The contract was signed by KISR deputy general manager Dr Ibrahim Al Sharida and KNPC local marketing director, Bader Al Refai.

## Ateeki warns Arab League could collapse

Arab blocs dangerous

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): Abdul Rahman Al Ateeki, the adviser of HH the Amir, has urged Arab states to maintain the Arab League and expressed fears that establishment of Arab blocs could lead to the organisation's collapse.

In an interview with the Kuwait Magazine, the publication of the Kuwait Information Ministry, Ateeki stressed the need for realisation of stability for success of investment projects in the Arab world.

He called on developing countries to thoroughly think over their potentials and peoples' requirements prior to concluding loan agreements with the International Monetary Fund, IMF.

He added that those who could not afford to meet the terms of the World Bank should not apply for loans from that institution. "Why do we hastily scramble to sign agreements, consenting to all terms set forward by the bank, and at the time of payment, when the bank insists to obtain its rights, we go back on our word and consider the bank's conditions as unfair and constitute intervention in the internal affairs," Ateeki remarked.

He called for wise economic policies on the part of Third

World governments and warned against sluggish expenditures that might not serve development.

Ateeki pointed out that Kuwait was keen not to have its foreign investments isolated from its national economy "but rather sought to create a close link between all sectors."

"This policy is best reflected by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation which holds investments in the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia that set a role model of flexibility," Ateeki noted.

He expressed disappointment at the investments in Arab states citing that "instability and lack of decision-makers were the main problems worsening the situation there."

Responding to a question on the establishment of Arab groupings such as the Gulf Co-operation Council, the Arab Co-operation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, Ateeki emphasised that the idea of forming such blocs within the framework of the Arab League was not new but dated back to the mid '30s when the concept of the Arab Economic Unity Council was first initiated.

## Renovation of buildings essential

THE Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammad Al Saied Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai, has lauded the public co-operation between the various municipality bodies in their application of by-laws and enactment of various public plans.

Speaking to a local magazine, the official said that the people of Kuwait must carry out their national duty in setting up a good architectural character of the

country through renovation of old buildings and facelifted dilapidated ones. He confirmed the municipality's willingness to offer technical counsel and facilitate in this respect.

Rifai added that Kuwait Municipality plays a leading role in national landscaping and afforestation plan, to ensure optimum fulfilment of the noble wish of HH the Amir. The mun-

## Cabinet briefed on Jordanian meetings

KUWAIT, May 14, (KUNA): Following the cabinet's weekly session today chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, told reporters that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister briefed the session on the outcome of his recent visit to Jordan during which he met with Jordan's King Hussein Bin Talal, the Jordanian Crown Prince and other ranking officials.

HH explained the details of his talks in Jordan on bilateral relations and Arab issues, Rashid said.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimi also briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to Senegal and Mauritania, delegated by HH the Amir, during which he handed messages to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and the President of Mauritania Maouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, regarding the latest ethnic riots which took place between peoples of the two countries.

Osaimi explained that the two African leaders had shown keenness and intention to terminate the incidents.

Osaimi informed the cabinet on the recent talks which were held by the Yugoslav Foreign Minister during his visit to the country.

The talks, he indicated, centred on the non-aligned summit scheduled to convene in Belgrade next September and means to achieve positive results, Osaimi added.

Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi for his part informed the cabinet on the results of the 42nd meetings of OPEC which ended here yesterday.

The cabinet was also informed of the outcome of the Municipality Affairs Committee's latest meeting and reviewed resolutions adopted.

### Imams despatched

DR ABDULLAH ABDUL SHAKOUR, undersecretary at the Egyptian Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry speaking to a local daily said that nearly 1,000 Egyptian imams have been sent by Egypt to the Gulf states and that more than 200 have also been sent to several African states to propagate Islam.

## Objections to joint company

## Taxi drivers complain of competition

HIGH level discussions are currently underway at Kuwait International Airport to change the scenario of taxi operations at the airport, according to a taxi driver.

Basically, the talks are centred on transforming the operations of taxi services to be within the jurisdiction of a joint stock company with airport taxi drivers as partners with all-taxi companies. Taxi drivers unanimously

rejected the move and said that the scope of work is not conducive towards the formation of such a company as it lacks any expanded activity.

One taxi driver said that most of his colleagues are retired from government jobs and they totally depend on their taxi earnings to maintain their families.

A large section of taxi drivers said that officials should have consulted with them to obtain their views prior to formulating

the establishment of a private joint stock company. Others complained of the stiff competition they face from private owned automobiles, pick up and hotel buses.

Mekhlid Mesleh, a taxi driver said taxi drivers sometimes assume the role of security men when they encounter suspects. They contact the airport administration. He added that the taxi problem should have been solved in 1973 when they first appeared.

"Now, car rental companies have recently begun operating at the airport and carry passengers from the airport. This has further aggravated an already grave situation," he added.

Abdul Hadi Ayedh Al Osaimi said that at many occasions they wait for more than eight hours to pick up one passenger. He added that the scope of work is not big enough to permit this expansion, he considered the new step as premature.

## EXCEL 89

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# ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IT is absurd to divide people into good and bad. People are either charming or tedious. — Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).

## Iran has a special view on terrorism

Call to kill Westerners

A CALL by an Iranian leader for Palestinians to kill Westerners, quickly retracted, and CIA suspicions that Iran was behind the bombing of a Pan Am airliner have highlighted Tehran's peculiar relationship with terrorism.

Kidnappings, hijackings and bombings related to Israel or the United States routinely bring Western accusations on Iranian involvement — but no proof, and a denial from Tehran.

Iran's revolutionary Islamic leaders are torn between backing what they see as liberation movements fighting oppressive powers, and accepting the international viewpoint that terrorism is a barbarous outrage.

Officially, Tehran acknowledges ideological guidance, but not control, over militant Shiite Muslim groups believed to be holding most of the 18 Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon.

Iran rejects Western accusations that it trains and funds terrorists. At times it condemns attacks on civilians in strong terms.

But Tehran insists that what it calls state terrorism — such as Israel's bombing of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon or the US bombing of Libya in 1986 — should be condemned, and yet is condoned by Western countries.

A wronged people cannot be blamed for adopting any means it can to fight back, the Iranian argument runs.

In a typical example of Iranian ambivalence on terrorism, parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has said that his speech a week ago urging Palestinians to kill Americans, Frenchmen and Britons had been misinterpreted.

Rafsanjani said he had meant that Israel's oppression of Arabs was likely to prompt extreme Palestinian responses such as bombings or hijackings that involved risks for ordinary people.

His Friday sermon, broadcast on Tehran Radio, had said US taxpayers were legitimate targets of assassination by Palestinians.

He said Palestinians could find Americans everywhere in the world to be killed to avenge the murder of Arabs by Israel.

"And they are all the same. Those who pay taxes to give \$10 billion a year to preserve Israel and know what they are doing — is their blood worth anything?" Rafsanjani said.

The sermon was a world away from remarks he made after Iran's secret arms-for-hostages deals with the United States were exposed in 1986.

### Kidnappings

Rafsanjani at that time told the American public through television interviews that kidnappings in Lebanon did not imply hostility to Americans as a people, but were political acts aiming to redress grievances against the US government.

Three American hostages were released by Lebanese groups in 1985 and 1986, apparently in exchange for weapons sold to Iran.

Even Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini, who praised the seizure of the US embassy in Tehran in 1979 and the holding of 52 Americans hostage for 444 days, is on record condemning terrorism.

He said in a speech in August 1984 that air piracy and other violent acts that threatened civilians were an affront to Islam.

Since then at least four airlines have been hijacked to Iran. Two Americans were killed by Arabic-speaking hijackers who commandeered a Kuwait Airways jet to Tehran in December 1984.

Iranian commandos raided the plane and seized the hijackers. The government said they would be put on trial, but nothing has been heard of them since.

A US counter-terror official said on Thursday the Central Intelligence Agency thought Iran was behind the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 last December that killed 270 people over Scotland.

He said the CIA believed Iran recruited members of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) to carry out the attack. But there was not enough evidence to press criminal charges, he added.

Iran's suspected motive was revenge for the downing of an Iranian Airbus by a US cruiser on July 3 last year over the Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard, the official said.

Tehran, seeing another example of state terrorism, has rejected Washington's assertion that the US attack was a mistake.

Renewing Iran's ideological stand-off with the West, President Ali Khamenei this week repeated a call for the killing of British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy — a call that the West regards as incitement to terrorism and Iran regards as a holy duty.

The death threat, first made in February by Khomeini over Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses*, led to a rupture with the West that shows little sign of healing. (Reuters, Nicosia)

### PRESS REVIEW

## Arab world needs Egypt

KUWAIT: A local daily has called for the return of Egypt to the Arab League and for its participation in the forthcoming emergency Arab summit in Morocco.

Daily Al Rai Al Aam said that there would be no Arab solidarity or real Arab co-operation without Egypt "because Egypt's clout and struggle cannot be ignored or denied."

"Egypt should take its normal place in the Arab League and should participate in the summit conference in Morocco," the paper said, pointing out that "incapability became a permanent state of the Arab policies since Egypt left the Arab rank."

The newspaper said that Israel benefited from the "state of disarray and corruption" in the Arab arena, affirming that the Arabs need Egypt as it needs them. (KUNA)

### TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1536 — Anne Boleyn and her brother, Lord Rochford, are tried and found guilty in England of adultery and incest.
- 1571 — Moscow is burned by the Tartars.
- 1602 — Bartholomew Gosnold, English navigator, discovers America's Cape Cod.
- 1767 — Genoa sells island of Corsica to France.
- 1796 — Forces under France's Napoleon Bonaparte enter Milan, Italy.
- 1848 — Communist uprising in Paris; second uprising in Vienna against new Austrian constitution which is repealed.
- 1924 — US Congress passes bill instituting immigrant quotas based on nationality.
- 1940 — The Netherlands surrenders to Germany in World War II.
- 1948 — New state of Israel is attacked by Egyptian planes and invaded in the north and east by troops from Lebanon and Transjordan.
- 1957 — Britain explodes its first thermonuclear bomb in central Pacific.
- 1962 — President John F. Kennedy orders 4,000 more US troops to be stationed in Thailand to counter threat in Laos.
- 1971 — Egyptians demonstrate in Cairo after President Anwar Sadat purges opponents from cabinet and emerges as new strongman.
- 1976 — Iran approves friendship treaty with neighbouring Iraq.
- 1988 — Ethiopian government declares state of emergency in war-torn northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre.

# US shifting policy gears in Afghanistan

By E.A. Wayne



Afghan mujahideen.

WASHINGTON: As the battle for the Afghan government stronghold of Jalalabad goes on, the United States is shifting its policy gears to fit Afghanistan's changing realities.

Soviet troops are gone. Washington is now focused not only on the mujahideen's battle to topple the Kabul Marxist regime, but also on the type of government that might emerge and how the US can promote a positive outcome.

While a few eyebrows have been raised by the length of the mujahideen siege of Jalalabad, US officials say they are sure the pro-Soviet regime will topple.

"While some so-called experts were predicting the fall of Kabul in several weeks," a ranking US official says, "the real experts were saying this would be a matter of months given the great amount of arms the Soviets gave their allies, the small areas left for them to defend, and the divisions among the resistance." Another key official admits that Afghan government troops in Jalalabad have fought better "than some of us expected." But he predicts that the city will eventually be captured and the communist regime wither — "it's only a matter of time."

Support for the mujahideen remains strong here. But there is also concern that divisions among resistance forces may prolong the struggle and result in an unstable or anti-Western Afghanistan.

Nine key senators, including the majority and minority leaders and the chairmen of the appropriations and intelligence committees, have introduced a resolution reflecting those worries.

The senators have two basic messages for the administration, say informed aides: "Don't cut military aid until Kabul falls or a political settlement is in place," and, "take a close look to ensure that US policies are working to prevent a post-communist government hostile to US interests."

A third message, they say, is intended for the resistance: "Continued US aid and assistance is dependent on how well you overcome your internal divisions." The senators, aides say, are concerned about persistent reports that US aid has been diverted by Pakistani military intelligence to fundamentalist groups who are ideologically hostile to the US and by

evidence that the resistance is unable to form a workable broad-based coalition. "They don't want us to end up with another botched situation like Iran," one key aide says.

The Bush administration was already reviewing its policies with these concerns in mind, officials say. The US has no illusions that it or other outsiders can shape an outcome in Afghanistan, they add. Nor does it want to "get in the middle of Afghan politics," as one source puts it.

"However much we might want it," says a specialist on the region, the new leaders of Afghanistan "are not going to be our friends." But the administration "can work to ensure that they aren't against us," he says — and that Afghanistan does not break up into warring fiefdoms.

The Bush administration has made, or will soon make, a number of decisions intended to achieve those ends.

It has decided to continue its military supply of the Afghan resistance until the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul is replaced. The logistic channel will continue to be through Pakistan. US officials see no alternatives to close co-ordination with Pakistan.

Despite earlier bias by Pakistani military intelligence in favour of fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, key US officials say they believe that arms distribution is proceeding on a more equitable basis. "We don't think Hekmatyar is being overindulged now," says one.

US officials say Washington is not interested in Soviet proposals for a mutual cutoff of military supplies. Moscow missed its chance, they say, when Washington offered ending the arms flow from both superpowers, called negative symmetry, last spring. "Negative symmetry isn't realistic now given how the Soviets have armed their allies to the teeth," says one policymaker.

Secretary of State James Baker III is reviewing a short list of candidates to be named special envoy to the Afghan resistance. The administration is not ready to recognize the interim government established by the Pakistan-based guerrilla parties.

It is still operating from Pakistan and is not seen as broad based. US officials and private specialists estimate that the Shura, or council, which chose the interim government represents only 15 to 20 per cent of the Afghan populace.

But US officials see the new government as a positive step, which the US should recognize with an envoy. Secretary Baker is reportedly looking for someone who will not only be good at working with the range of resistance leaders, but who over time might also become the ambassador to Afghanistan and would be able to manage the large US aid and relief programmes that are expected.

US officials are weighing a formal break in diplomatic ties with the Kabul regime. While no decision has yet been made, "there are not a lot of people standing in the way of a break," says a top US official.

The administration has decided to increase humanitarian and development aid. It wants to channel this directly through the interim government.

US development aid currently flows through committees set up by the Pakistan-based resistance. The US is urging the new government to quickly put ministerial structures in place to handle the aid flow.

This, US officials say, will serve as a means to expand the government's effectiveness and legitimacy. They hope other foreign donors will do follow suit.

As the military conflict settles down, the administration plans to shift funds allocated for weapons to development aid. In the interim, it is looking for other money.

David Isby of the pro-mujahideen Committee for a Free Afghanistan says that channeling aid through the interim government may be one of the most important US levers to influence Afghanistan's future political makeup.

It can force the Pakistan-based leaders to develop skills needed to administer, he says, and give them "goodies" to make their administration relevant to "the guys with guns inside Afghanistan."

Selling Harrison of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is one of the few in Washington arguing that the US is heading in the wrong direction. He says Washington should try to negotiate a mutual arms advantage. Such an accord, Harrison says, could set the stage for an effort, led by the United Nations, to form a broad-based government.

"It's time to reassess and see that any military victory will be terribly costly, if possible at all," Harrison says. Or "the end result could be an unstable government" and a "balkanized Afghanistan."

1989, The Christian Science Monitor.

## New look for UK Labour Party

Battle to oust Thatcher

By Peter Gregson

ARMED with a battle plan dubbed 'new realism', Britain's opposition Labour Party began its war this week to win Britain's next general election.

But as it seeks to end Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's three-term grip on power, Labour faces trouble with its left wing over a shift on nuclear weapons by dropping its former policy of unilateral disarmament.

Skirmishing over 'new realism', both in Labour's own ranks and with the ruling Conservatives, began as the strategy was adopted by the party's national executive on Monday and Tuesday.

The plan will be put to a party conference in October for adoption as official policy, replacing a 1983 manifesto dubbed by party moderates 'the longest suicide note in history.'

But if Labour landed the first blow in the fight to rule Britain in the 1990s with 'new realism', the battle will be fought on terrain mapped out by the government.

After a landslide 1987 election defeat, Labour leader Neil Kinnock launched a two-year policy overhaul to fashion on a socialist ideology in tune with a Britain

where a decade of 'Thatcherism' had changed the social and economic agenda.

He told the ruling executive meeting in London that some of the changes were irreversible and it was up to Labour to make the capitalist system work more efficiently and fairly.

By a series of one-sided votes, he routed left-wing opposition and gained the executive's backing for a strategy steering Labour away from doctrinaire socialism and unilateral disarmament towards the centre of the political spectrum.

The policies, described by trade spokesman Bryan Gould as giving the party 'a new electable face', pledged that Labour would modify rather than repudiate Conservative reforms such as tax cuts, the sale of major industries to private investors and Labour laws which have curbed the powers of trades unions.

But it is the unions, still powerful within the Labour Party itself, who are at the heart of a left-wing mutiny over the policy's most controversial aspect: to abandon unilateral disarmament and reduce nuclear weapons through negotiation.

Labour's 1981 promise to scrap Britain's independent

nuclear deterrent within five years of taking office is widely seen as a major factor in its last two election defeats, but it is a principle held dear by many of its most important figures.

Influential transport workers leader Ron Todd used the party's largest block vote to defeat efforts by Kinnock to move away from unilateral disarmament at last year's Labour Party conference and he has pledged to fight it again this year.

But that vote was close and multilateralists in the party believe they can win over enough other unions before October to swing the outcome this time in Kinnock's favour.

On Todd's side, however, are prominent hardliners like Tony Benn and Ken Livingstone, who said after the 17-8 executive vote to ditch unilateralism: "We intend to fight throughout this summer to save the party we all love and believe in."

The 'soft left' campaign group of 35 Labour members of parliament has also said it will fight any move from unilateralism.

A remark by Gould that there were no plans to use 'or even threaten to use' Britain's Polaris and Trident missiles also fuelled

a row over whether a future Labour government would ever press the nuclear button even if it did keep the weapons.

Thatcher told Parliament: "A deterrent is not a deterrent if it does not deter and the policy is the old one of unilateralism in a different wrapping." Defence Secretary George Younger added: "To arm yourself with a deterrent, which you then say you will not use, would be about as effective as a feather duster."

Former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine said: "The policy is designed to get the Labour Party through the next election. It has nothing to do with the defence of this country."

Other conservatives also welcomed the publicity over Labour's defence stance as ammunition for the government to fire back after taking months of flak over planned changes to the health service, high inflation, interest rates and mortgages, a controversial poll tax to replace property rates and unpopular moves to privatise water supplies.

Even if 'new realism' survives the Brighton conference intact, it will be a long haul before it can be put into practice.

(Reuters — London).

## Full marks, Arab Times

SIR: I cannot believe what I have been reading in your "Letters to the Editor" column just lately. Some of the letters were actually littered with feeling and interesting to read.

I was particularly impressed with the letters on the "Maid's dilemma" and the "Sheffield disaster," the latter article being one of many aimed at your personal comments on the unfortunate event. Ten out of ten for printing them. However, I feel they were right and you were wrong.

Name and address supplied.

## Help us, Benazir

SIR: Recently the Pakistani ambassador in Kuwait, addressing a gathering of Pakistani businessmen and professionals, emphasised the necessity for Pakistanis, in a patriotic spirit, to deposit money in Pakistani banks and make use of facilities provided by the government for investing in Pakistan.

The ambassador's address was gratifying in that it made a call for a proper outlook to be developed amongst the Pakistani population, not only in Kuwait, but in the Gulf and other overseas countries as well. However, words without deeds can cause an irreversible crisis of confidence in a government. Such is the case with Pakistan in the last few weeks.

The declining value of Pakistani rupee in relation to the US dollar has placed Pakistan's

national savings schemes in a crisis situation which cannot be rectified unless the prime minister of Pakistan personally intervene.

For example, the 'Khas Deposit Scheme' has attracted a great deal of investment from Pakistanis overseas. The high rate of interest and the government's willingness to reimburse the principal amount and the interest in foreign currency has made it an attractive offer. Now, the declining rate of the rupee against the dollar has in fact jeopardised people's life savings and created a serious crisis of confidence in Pakistani financial institutions, and in the minds of the investors.

I wish to request the Pakistani government through this column to set the cash-in rate of Khas Deposits at the reasonable rate of Rs16 per dollar. This would help overseas Pakistanis not to lose their life savings and prevent the withdrawal of huge amounts of money that is invested in Khas Deposits.

I also wish to request all investors to help start a campaign in this matter.

Dr Hakeem Mohd, Shuwaikh.

## Dictators beware

SIR: Your article entitled "Court keeps Marcos from his money AT, April 25" is not justified since the Supreme Court has not ruled that the assets are to be handed back to the rightful owners: the Filipino people. It is America which helped Marcos to embezzle the



Filipino people of their property. It was also the US which helped Marcos in power for 20 years. After he was forced out from power by the Filipino people, and became an exile in the US, he became a 'chief' to the Americans. Is it the policy of Western countries to cheat their one-time friends after he or she is no longer in the control of the machinery of power?

As a native of Africa where we have so many dictators, I call upon our present and future leaders and dictators to learn from history and not to embezzle public property entrusted to you.

My question is: where will you go and will you ever be free to enjoy this wealth?

Mohamed Hassan, Bulshaleh, Sabahiya.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Mauritania on the edge of two worlds

By Jeffrey Ulbrich

MAURITANIA, which straddles both the Arab and black African worlds, is trying to balance one foot in each.

It has embraced its Arab brothers to the north in the new union of the great Arab Maghreb, which has yet to yield any major economic benefits, and is engaged in bloody disputes with Senegal, its southern neighbour and largest trading partner, on the coast.

Mauritania's population, estimated at up to two million, is almost evenly divided among whites of Arab-Berber extraction known as Moors, who dominate the government and most of the economy; Haratin or black Moors, who are mixed-race descendants of slaves who adopted Berber customs; and black Africans from the Senegal River region along Mauritania's southern border.

But even as it turns north toward the other Maghreb countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya in hopes they will be able to form a mini-common market, eyes are being cast with new interest toward the south. Two new dams on the Senegal river have opened up the perspective of greater agricultural opportunities.

Those developments, in large measure, are at the root of the recent trouble that has resulted in an estimated 260 dead in anti-Senegalese violence in Mauritania and anti-Mauritanian violence in Senegal. Tens of thousands of people were repatriated to their respective homelands in an emergency air shuttle set up at the height of the violence, sparked by a minor border incident in April.

The government is promoting a new agricultural policy, giving land to any individual or company willing to develop it in a country where 99 per cent of the more than one million square kilometres (nearly 400,000 square miles) of land is covered by desert.

The programme is attracting investment from many white Moors never previously interested by agriculture, a development resented by some of the country's blacks.

The dispute, both political and racial, comes at a time when Mauritania, an Islamic republic, run by a military committee for national salvation, is making its first tentative steps toward democracy. There have been scattered local elections in the past year. The next step is nation-wide municipal elections.

"An ephemeral democracy is not what we are looking for," Mauritania's President Lt Col Maouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, said in a speech last month. "A healthy, efficient and durable democracy demands a change in our mentality and the eradication of ignorance and other social ills."

A multiparty system and real parliamentary democracy don't appear to be in the immediate offing, however.

"Total democracy? That depends on the situation," said Information Minister Mustapha Ould Abderrahman. "The President is a man of his word. Each time the context allows development of the democratic process, it happens. But it is impossible to say how long total democracy will take."

Mauritania is also restructuring its economy, at the recommendation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. About one-third of the government-owned companies are being sold off; others are being re-organised.

The Mauritaniens are quite proud of having got a grip on servicing a foreign debt that stood at \$1.87 billion in 1987, according to World Bank figures. It said the gross national product was \$816 billion last year, down from \$869 million in 1987.

Abderrahman, an economist and former finance minister, says debt service ate up 35 to 40 per cent of the country's export income in 1984. "We are now at about 22 per cent," he said. "We want to get it down to about 20 per cent, which is manageable."

But the restructuring, along with a 15 per cent currency devaluation and a freeze on wages, has had its consequences. Many public sector jobs were eliminated. The government has established a special fund to help people find new employment.

Resettling the 50,000 Mauritaniens repatriated from Senegal in the latest conflict also will be a financial burden on the government and will mean a sharp cutback in remittances many of the people had regularly sent back home. Per capita income in Mauritania was only \$410 in 1987.

Also unknown is the impact of the April violence on the fishing industry, which has overtaken iron mining as Mauritania's biggest income earner. Nearly all of the country's fishermen were Senegalese, and nearly all of them fled, leaving the industry in a shambles and markets nearly empty of fish.

The trouble with Senegal also has led to fears of a resurgence of racial troubles at home. Senegalese say deep-seated racism among white Moors is at the heart of the conflict between the two countries. Mauritania government officials vehemently deny it. Racial violence in the 1960s by southern blacks fearful of further Arabization of the country was harshly put down, and even discussion of race was banned. But in a country where slavery was not abolished until 1980, problems continue.

The government claims to have stamped out the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania, a black opposition group, leaving it only with a few "troublemakers" based in Dakar. The organisation's military wing tried a coup in 1987. Two officers were executed and others arrested and jailed. (AP — Nouakchott)



# Gunbattles erupt in hills above Beirut

## Latest ceasefire threatened

BEIRUT, May 14, (AP): Gunbattles erupted in hills above Beirut today as Syrian and allied Druze gunners shelled the coast of the besieged Christian enclave with sporadic artillery fire, threatening to undermine the Arab League's latest ceasefire.

Police said Gen Michel Aoun's Christian troops were locked in sniper fire and rocket-propelled grenade duels with Syrian and Druze forces at the mountaintop town of Souk El Gharb southeast of Beirut.

The strategic town sits atop a road network leading from the Druze hinterland in the Chouf mountains to the Christian enclave north and northeast of Beirut. No casualties were reported at the Souk El Gharb front.

Police said at least 40 shells were fired from Syrian-controlled West Beirut onto a coastal stretch running through the port of Byblos, 19 miles (30 kilometres) north of Beirut. No casualties were reported in the barrage, apparently aimed at preventing ships from entering the harbour.

At least 359 people were killed and 1,393 wounded since the current round in the 14-year-old war broke out March 8. The confrontation began when Aoun's gunboats and helicopter gunships blockaded illegal ports run by Muslim militias south of Beirut.

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party retaliated by shelling the Christian enclave. The Syrians later joined the bombardment and sealed off the enclave's land and sea outlets.

Syria's allies have said they would keep shelling the Christian coast despite the truce in order to prevent arms supplies to Aoun's 20,000 troops.

Arab League mediators proclaimed the latest ceasefire on Thursday, calling it an "inland truce" to halt the shelling duels that wreaked havoc on Beirut's Muslim and Christian sectors and many summer resort towns in Lebanon's central mountains.

Lakhdar Ibrahim, an Algerian Assistant Secretary-General of the 22-member Arab League, said he would begin fresh negotiations with the warring factions this week to stop the coastal hostilities.

Ibrahim was in Damascus today where he met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

The Arab League envoys left for Kuwait to report to deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, head of an Arab League committee trying to end Lebanon's crisis.

Two personal envoys of Lebanese acting Premier Dr Salim Al Hoss today arrived in Kuwait on a mission to brief top Kuwaiti officials on current developments in Lebanon and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army and wounded another in south Lebanon today, the SLA said.



Dumas meeting

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has announced that he will meet at the end of May in Paris with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to discuss the bloody conflict in Lebanon.

Dumas (picture) made the announcement during a one-day official visit to Tunis, where he is holding bilateral talks on economic and political issues with local officials.

France, which last month sent a humanitarian mission to Beirut, has been urging greater involvement by the international community in settling the conflict. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two personal envoys of Lebanese acting Premier Dr Salim Al Hoss today arrived in Kuwait on a mission to brief top Kuwaiti officials on current developments in Lebanon and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army and wounded another in south Lebanon today, the SLA said.

# German hostage freed, no ransom

(Continued from Page 1)

Hammadi, who was charged with terror action.

The kidnappers of Quint reportedly demanded a mild sentence on Hammadi, a brother of a senior security official of the Hezbollah organisation.

Hammadi is standing trial in Frankfurt for his participation in the hijacking of a TWA airliner in 1985 and the killing of a US passenger, Robert Stethem.

Police detectives today found the car of the missing Briton, Jack Mann, parked in a West Beirut street, but said they still have no clues leading to the whereabouts of the World War II Air Force pilot who disappeared two days ago.

Mann's British wife, Sunny, said she believes her husband has been kidnapped, and that she was concerned about his health because he suffers from a chronic skin problem that requires him to take his medicine regularly.

A police detective, said Mann's car, a dark grey Talbot, was found in Caracas Street, about one kilometre (1,000 yards) away from his house.

"There were no signs that he was forced out of the car," said the detective. The dust-covered Talbot, which detectives drove to his house, did not show any sign of damage.

The detective said the Lebanese police has turned over the case to the Syrians.

Mann left his apartment at 11 am (0800 GMT) Friday, heading for the British Bank of the Middle East, about two kilometres (1.2 miles) away. He never returned. Sunny said her husband is 75 years old, denying a statement by a friend of his who said the former pilot is 83.

Mann worked at Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, after retiring from the Royal Air Force. MEA records also show he is 83.

After retiring from MEA in the 1960s, Mann worked as bartender at the Pickwick pub in West Beirut.

A group calling itself the Cells of Armed Struggle has claimed it abducted Mann. It said in a statement it wanted the release of "comrades" jailed in Britain in connection with the killing of a Palestinian cartoonist, Ali Naji Al Adhami, in 1987.

There has been no way to verify the claim, and Scotland Yard says there have been no arrests made in Adhami's case. Interviewed today at her home, Sunny said her husband has been seen leaving the bank Friday, contradicting a statement by a bank employee who insisted Mann never got there.



Quint

# Kuwait, Oman linked by identical interests and joint destiny



HH the Amir received Sultan Qaboos at the airport.



Sultan Qaboos meeting dignitaries.

# Visit will boost relations

(Continued from Page 1)

Sultan Qaboos said that he will exchange views with the Amir on Arab events in general and Gulf developments in particular.

In a statement, issued by the Omani Royal Court, Sultan Qaboos expressed conviction that his visit to Kuwait will pose as a turning point in their bilateral relations.

He said that the trip will boost the already strong brotherly ties between the two countries.

The visit of Sultan Qaboos has

been greatly highlighted by the Kuwaiti press.

The Crown Prince told Omani News Agency yesterday that the Kuwaiti-Omani ties are brotherly, historic and based on identical interests, wishes, goals and joint destiny.

Such relations, Sheikh Saad said, were fostered by the successful march of the GCC.

Kuwaiti-Omani talks will centre on a host of issues that will be topped by the means of deepening bilateral ties, the situation in the Gulf region as well as Arab

and international developments. Oman is member of the GCC since its inception in 1981, and is also a member of the Arab League as well as Organisation of Islamic Conference, currently chaired by the Amir.

The Gulf state has an approximately area of 105,000 square miles and population of more than 1.5 million.

Sultan Qaboos, took office in 1971, and as a Kuwaiti daily said has been since then a symbol of reform and scientific progress in the sultanate.

# Egypt to continue tank project with US

CAIRO, May 14, (Reuters): Egypt will go ahead with a two-billion-dollar plan to co-produce the US main battle tank, a minister said today.

"Egypt's programme for producing the US M-1A1 tank will continue as planned," Minister of State for Military Production, Gamal Ibrahim El Sayed, told reporters during a visit to a military plant outside Cairo.

In interviews over the past week, military sources told Reuters Egypt might scrap the plan as part of a sweeping review of projects by the new Defence Minister, Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb.

Sayed gave no further details. Defence Ministry sources said the issue would be raised on Wednesday at an annual meeting in Cairo of the joint US-Egyptian military co-operation committee. The US team will be led by Defence Under-secretary Richard Armitage.

The first 15 of 555 M-1A1s are due to arrive in Egypt in 1991, but military sources said Egypt was short of more than \$200 million for arms purchases that year.

They said the production line set up to assemble the tanks was at least six months behind schedule.

# Rafsanjani suffers a severe setback

LONDON, May 14, (KUNA): Iranian parliamentary Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani has suffered a "severe setback" to his presidential plans following his condemned call for Palestinians to kill Westerners in retaliation for deaths in the occupied territories, according to a report here today.

The Sunday Times newspaper said the "furious" international reaction to his call had "played into the hands" of Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmed and his daughter Zahra.

It quoted sources in Tehran who said that while Ahmed and Zahra were more hardline than Rafsanjani they had "forced him to withdraw his remarks publicly after he had been disowned by the PLO and condemned around the world."

The weekly went on to quote sources close to Rafsanjani who admitted his "great mistake" had been to go too far in trying to be more zealous when the wind was blowing in favour of the hardliners led by Ahmed.

One source told the Sunday Times: "By nature, he has moderate sentiments and what he said does not reflect his true sentiments and intentions, which remain basically pro-Western."

Rafsanjani's subsequent recantation "seems to have been stage-managed" and was being portrayed by friends as an effort "to tell former sympathisers in the West that he had been coerced into his rhetoric," added the weekly.

It concluded that the episode "leaves Rafsanjani weaker and the Khomeini family stronger."

## NOTICE

Bakola Al Huddai

Tayyab

Salmiya, Block No. 207, near Rumaythiya Garden, has been sold by H.C. Abraham. Anyone having any claim whatsoever may contact the shop within one week of appearance of this ad. Kindly note that no claims will be entertained after one week.

# Israel concerned Village intifada

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 14, (Reuters): Israeli defence officials are concerned that the Palestinian uprising has seized control of dozens of villages in the occupied West Bank, security sources said today.

"The Army doesn't have enough men in the field. It can control the main towns and keep the main roads open but it has lost the initiative in the countryside," one source said.

Many remote villages, rarely patrolled by the Army because they do not lie on major roads, have declared themselves "liberated" and are controlled by the masked youths who enforce the uprising's directives.

A severe shortage of Army manpower, due to Defence Ministry decisions to reduce annual reserve duty and return combat units to their normal training schedule, has contributed to the problem, the sources said.

The Army has come under political pressure to take action after Israel television recently screened foreign media film of para-military parades in West Bank villages by masked, uniformed youths carrying wooden mock Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The Army's dilemma was highlighted last month when a border police search-and-arrest raid met massive resistance from Palestinians in the village of Nahalin, near Bethlehem.

Ill-prepared border policemen lost control and panicked, shooting dead five Palestinians and wounding at least 13, an Army inquiry found.

Nahalin is typical of dozens of villages scattered around the West Bank, off the main highways, where residents erect stone roadblocks, mount an organised guard, hold para-military marches and festoon walls with nationalist graffiti and outlawed Palestinian flags.

The military commander of the West Bank, Major General Amram Mitzna, told Reuters in March the Army had dropped its policy of mounting large-scale raids on rebellious villages.

Before then, in so-called "initiated actions", troops frequently raided villages before dawn, arresting suspects and forcing residents to clear streets and remove nationalist flags and slogans.

Mitzna said Army policy now was to stay out of villages that did not disrupt major roads.

# Objection delays relief train for south Sudan

KHARTOUM, May 14, (Reuters): A government objection to the amount of food destined for rebel-held areas of south Sudan stopped a UN-sponsored relief train leaving today, UN officials said.

They said hours before the trip was due to start government officials objected to a previously-agreed plan that half the 1,500 tonnes of supplies should be unloaded at the rebel-held town of Mabior.

The government wanted only eight of the 49 wagons in the train to be left at Mabior for civilians, they added.

No new date was set for the train's departure and the UN officials said they would have to seek approval from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) for the government plan.

The already-delayed train had been due to leave the town of Al Muglad in South Kordofan province today for Aweil, 250 km (160 miles) to the south. Mabior lies between the two towns.

The trip was part of a \$132-million UN-led relief operation for the south called "Lifeline Sudan" which began on April 1. The train was expected to reach Aweil in nearly a week.

Diplomats and relief workers said they suspected the hitch was linked to threats made by a local tribal militia to disrupt the journey.

They said Arab Al Messiria militiamen, sworn enemies of the SPLA rebels, had argued with government officials for the past week against the train dropping off half the food at Mabior.

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## EVENTS

## INDIAN VIDEO ROUND UP

## Bharat's clerical error — a case in point

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

CLERK Bharat (India) oh! Manoj Kumar is at it again. Bharat, in Hindi, means India. Ghandhi's, Nehru's and Indira's India. Incidentally, there is no reference to Rajiv's India. Perhaps, there is a point in this too, a line used once too often by several characters in Clerk.

A string of patriotic (desh-wasi) films, made by Manoj, notable among them are Kranti, Roti Kapda aur Makann and Uplakar (not necessarily in that order), have given him the nickname Bharat.

Manoj loves to promote himself, on screen, of course. Clerk, is no exception. It revolves around Bharat's *Desh Bhakti* (patriotism); his loyalty and his honesty. And one has a gut feeling that perhaps he is out to woo the authorities. Perhaps not. He has an eye on the box office, and the masses. No doubt about that.

If one examines the overall content of the film, like all Hindi films, it raises familiar, topical issues. In content, Clerk is repetitive; as entertainment and a lesson in patriotism, we could learn a thing or two, not only from our very own Bharat, but also from Pakistani actor Mohammad Ali.

We get a sneaky suspicion that Manoj Kumar is trying to copy someone, perhaps Dilip Kumar, particularly in dialogue delivery. Imitators are second best, and in this case, Bharat irritates you with his droning, lisp-like voice. He hears half the words he is mouthing. Not that you need to hear.

Manoj's Clerk, is perhaps a clerical error. To cover up the blunder, he has almost all the big names, past and present, drawn into the film — like extras: Rajinder Kumar,



Mohammad Ali

Ashok Kumar, Anita Raj, Rekha, Shashi Kapoor, Satish Shah, Rajiv Goswami, Sonu Walia and a host of others; in addition to Pakistani actor Mohammad Ali and his wife, Zeba.

If Manoj, the filmmaker, had overcome the temptation of projecting Bharat-India in a theme that is basically about middle-class values, it would have been a more absorbing, and engrossing venture. As it is, superfluous patriotism veils attempts to expose the dreary, exaggerated portrayal of the life of clerks. Not all bosses are corrupt and inhumane like Sharma of Clerk and not all clerks are slob-like Bharat.

Bharat's is a desperately bleak world; he lives in penury; going hungry to feed his starving family. His land has been usurped by the landlord. "You must be thankful to God if

from patriotism to nepotism, and all the other "isms" thrown in for good measure, including Manojism. As a musical, and a pure entertainer, it is tolerable. It is neither a political nor a social film. It is just Manoj Kumar's film.

## Naqaab

Raj Khosla's *Naqaab* (veil) is best left undisturbed. It starts off like a mystery. A young girl rises from the mist on a young man by surprise. "I have escaped from my grave," she tells the startled young man. He believes her; you do, too.

She is no ghost from the underworld. She is a plain, hapless young girl imprisoned by the cunning Nawab. It is as if Khosla wants to degrade the already ruined Nawabs. He shatters the myth of their wealth and power; he decimates them. Agreed. Nawabs are a bygone species. Khosla's fault lies in trying to revive the romance of yesterday; in a Nawabi setting. Here, he fails miserably. Romance blossoms, only to be crushed.

Khosla also has difficulty in keeping up the momentum after he uses the ploy of separating the lovers. His dilemma is whether to unite them or not. In deciding to avert a tragedy, he resorts to a long-winding tale which is hard to swallow. The era of Muslim social has long since ended; none can recapture the atmosphere of a *Mere Mehboob* or a *Mughal-e-Azam* or *Anarkali*. Naqaab can't revive the charisma.

Rishi Kapoor, Farha and Vijendra Ghaige star in *Naqaab*. The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900; and at Falcon Video, Abbasiya.

UK. Music and buffet dinner. Limited number of tickets available. For details call Graham Adams — 5644533; Hugh McAree 5326328.

**Mando Festival**  
MAY 26: For the first time in the history of Goans in Kuwait — Kuwani Konkani Kendr (KKK) is going to organise a Konkani Mando Festival at Hotel Meridien starting at 10.30 am.

**Kuwait Players**  
May 28 — June 1 (7.30 pm): Kuwait Players will present the last production of the season, a comedy entitled *When Did You Last See Your Trousers*, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets — KD3. For reservations call 5637088; 5629875.

**Geet and Ghazals**  
The Geet and Ghazals concert, Bhoolay Bisrey Geet, due to be held on May 19 at the Sharq auditorium has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. A new date will be announced later.

**Kuwait-Welsh Society**  
MAY 31: The annual general meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday at 8 pm. For details call 391-2384; 372-9132; 371-3467; 562-5316.

**HOTELS**  
**At the Kuwait International**  
Garden pool: Kubli Khan Mongolian barbecue every Friday afternoon. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate. Ext 8006.

**La Patisserie:** Serves continental breakfast and afternoon tea. Sachertart is the cake of the week. Pianist in the evenings. Ext 8014.

**Fallaka:** Rooftop restaurant offers international cuisine. Arabic night on Thursday. Live entertainment during dinner. Open for lunch and dinner. Closed on Fridays Ext 8012.

**At the Sheraton**  
HUNTRROOM: Upto May 19 — fresh asparagus promotion, where some of the most delicious preparations make their way to the tables of the diners. Live entertainment by our new lady pianist Miss Ewa Kaminska.

**At the Coffee Shop:** Fresh strawberry promotion starts as of May 20, for a period of one week. Enjoy some of the most delicious of creations of strawberries and have an outing to remember.

**At the Al Hamra:** Daily lunch buffet. Entertainment night by The Lords. Oriental buffet for dinner. Al Hamra is closed on Fridays. Kiddie brunch every Friday in the Ballroom "B".

**At the Le Tarbouche:** Daily lunch and dinner a la carte. The "Arab world specialties" continue every Thursday featuring specialties from the Arab world cuisine.

**At the Ricardo:** Enjoy the best of Italian cuisine with our home made pasta every day for lunch and dinner with live

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## KTV 1

## MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran  
9.10 Sabah Al Khair  
9.15 Cartoons  
9.45 Magazine D'Actualite  
10.00 Yaseen Wa Bahiya: Arabic serial (Part 5)  
10.45 News summary and varieties  
11.00 Al Aswar: local serial (Part 5)  
11.50 News summary and varieties  
12.00 Cultural film  
12.50 Closedown

## EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran  
4.15 World News via

## Satellite

Sherlock Holmes: cartoon serial

5.15 Mama Anima Wa Esghar

5.45 Varieties

6.00 Qanadeel Shabiya: historical serial

7.30 Varieties

7.45 Quran and Science: presented by Ahmad Shawqi

8.30 Mass' Al Khair

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Layali Al Hilmiya: Arabic serial (Part 5)

10.45 Ana Thanbi Eih: Arabic feature film: starring Layla Fawzi, Mohsen Sarhan, Fareid Shawqi and Tahya Karyouka

12.15 News Summary

12.20 The World News via

## Satellite

Holy Quran and closedown

## KTV 2

6.00 Opening: and Holy Quran

6.10 Bionix Six: A cartoon serial for children

6.30 Wild America: "Yellow Stone River."

More details about fish called cutthroat which moves from Yellow Stone Lake to Yellow Stone River.

7.00 Roving Report: A weekly round-up of local, Arab and international news, events and activities...

7.30 Charles In Charge: "War". Migan a new girl-friend of Charles admires his way of dealing with young children...

8.00 News in English

8.30 Paradise: "The Holstered Gun." Three criminal brothers kill the sheriff and frighten the people who find their own way to get rid of them. How?

9.30 227: "Country Cousins." When Mary and Lester read their uncles' will, they are both surprised to learn they have distant cousins, whom they've never met and even more confused when they discovered they are a different colour

10.00 Hitchcock: "My Dear Watson." A competition is held between Sherlock Holmes and one of the criminals who kidnapped his friend Watson...

10.30 French film

12.00 News in brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



## Swissair promotes Skyline Institute

A group of 15 students of Skyline Institute of Boodai Aviation undergoing advanced diploma in travel and tourism management recently left for Switzerland for practical education tour sponsored by Swissair. The specialised diploma, which has been recognised by airlines and agents prepares the students to develop managerial capabilities by covering airport handling, sales, marketing, and hotel and tourism management subjects.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

## PRAYERS

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr    | 3.26 am |
| Zuhr    | 11.44   |
| Asr     | 3.20 pm |
| Maghreb | 6.33    |
| Isha    | 8.00    |

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

**Kuwait Science Museum**  
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

**Islamic Arts Museum**  
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

**Sadu House**  
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon, 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

**Bangladesh Art Show**  
MAY 13-27: Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam will show 45 paintings at the Kuwait National Museum. Islam's paintings revolve around the life of Bangladeshis. Landscapes are also on show. The exhibition will be open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm. It has been organised by the Bangladesh Association.

## MUSIC

**Kuwait Singers**  
KUWAIT Singers present "Stage Struck" an evening of show songs from Broadway and the West End at Gulf English School, Salwa on Wednesday 24th May and Thursday 25th May at 8.00 pm. Price KD3 to include refreshments. For reservations please phone 5317433/5384873.

## FILMS

**British Council**  
MAY 20/21 (6.30 pm): "A Room With a View", an adaptation of E.M. Forster's novel will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriyah. Featuring an incomparable cast, recipient of three Oscars, it tells the story of Lucy Honeychurch (Helena Bonham-Carter), a beautiful young English girl abroad, whose emotions are rocked when she witnesses a murder, and whose life is forever altered by the sudden and mysterious arrival of a passionate young man. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251-5512; 253-3204; 252-23227.

## SOCIAL

**Musical evening**  
MAY 17: (8.30 pm). The Phil Thomas Sextet and Karl and Christine Anderson with their band present an evening of British and American jazz, rock and pop music at the Holiday Inn. For reservations contact: 5629452/4834938/5387998.

**Ex-Tho get-together**  
MAY 18: Roorkee University Alumni Association will have a family get-together. For details contact tele. 2551305 or 5631325.

**Casuals Cricket Club**  
MAY 18: 8 pm. Messilah Beach Hotel. Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close CBE, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Courtesy of British Airways. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements (53333248) or Val Tudball (5327159).

**Kuwait Caledonians**  
MAY 18: Messilah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebrity" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

## ACT play

MAY 16-18: ACT presents a play by Raymond Briggs, "When the Wind Blows" at the Mousetrap Theatre in Jabriya at 8 pm both days. For reservations call: 5620332, 4-8 pm.

**Summer Bazaar**  
MAY 19: 2.00 pm, St Pauls Ahmadi, grand summer bazaar at the new British Consulate in the British Embassy grounds, sale of handicrafts, paperbacks, preserves good as new, plants, bottle stall, white elephant, numerous fun side shows etc. Plus prize draw for British Airways round trip ticket Kuwait-London, Delhi, Madras or Karachi.

**Arabian Nights**  
MAY 19: Arabian Nights evening at the Jawhara Nightclub, Messilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle Eastern, past or present; 20 costume prizes; candlelit dinner — 9 pm. Tel: 4847461 or leave message on 2614201.

**Jukebox 5**  
MAY 23-25: The Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5, will be presented at the Salmiyah Cinema at 8 pm and also at 5 pm on May 25. For reservations ring 5740256/7 (mornings and 4 to 7 pm) or 5718143 or 5731782. Tickets will be on sale at Salmiyah Cinema Box Office from May 14.

**Alumni association**  
ALL alumnus of College of Engineering, Trivandrum, please contact any of the following telephone numbers: Thomas, 4895268; Salim, 5617293; Baboi, 2412653; Thomas, 5616601; and Joseph 5615133.

**One-act play**  
MAY 25: IAC One-act play competition awards night. IAC members please contact (office) tele 3904817 after 7 pm for passes. Participating teams contact P.C. George at 4739359 for passes.

**Nomads Oval Ball**  
MAY 25 (Thursday): Nomads Oval Ball at Holiday Inn hotel. Formal dress; 7.30 pm start. Guest speaker from

## NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait  
Al Hafith Pharmacy  
Salah Al Din St., Souq Wajif,  
Al Bakhsami Pharmacy  
Ahmad Al Jaber St., Al Sharq Square

Hawalli and Nagra  
Al Kamal Pharmacy  
Tunis St.  
Hawalli

Sabahiya and Rumaithiya  
Finiya Pharmacy  
Salem Al Mubarak St.,  
Al Zahra Complex

Fahsheel and Ahmadi  
Al Ittihad Pharmacy  
Makla St.  
Fahsheel

Jleeb Al Shoukha  
Al Hasawiya Pharmacy  
Main St.

Jahra  
Al Abraj Pharmacy  
Dabal Al Khozai St.  
near the education department

## CINEMA

Andalus  
Iron Angels  
Salmiya  
Nuts

Hamra  
Arabic film  
Drive-In  
Arabic film

Firdous  
Andha Yudh  
Starring: Raj Babbar, Pallavi Joshi

Fahsheel Open Air  
Aag Ka Sholay

Fahsheel  
Some one to Watch Over

Jahra  
Little Nikita  
Granada

Eyes of the Condor  
Salmiyah  
Over Board

Al Jleeb  
1921

Ahmedi Drive-In  
Big Business

# HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## G-7 meeting expected to yield little

Ministers to focus on Mexico's foreign debt

NEW YORK, May 14, (Reuters): Ministers from the leading industrial democracies and commercial bankers hold an unprecedented meeting tomorrow which will focus on Mexico's foreign debt.

But the meetings not expected to yield any new momentum for US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's initiative on reducing Third World debt, bankers said.

Brady's initiative, outlined in March, calls on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to support reduction of Third World debt.

But bankers have complained that elements are vague and industrialised countries have remained at odds on some aspects, particularly over the IMF and World Bank should play.

Tomorrow's meeting will bring together the deputy finance ministers of the United States, Japan, Canada, Britain, Italy, France and West Germany, the countries

known as the Group of Seven (G-7). The banks will be represented by Citicorp, chairman of the 15-member bank advisory committee for Mexico, which is expected to be the first beneficiary of the Brady plan.

The meeting will focus largely on negotiations with Mexico, begun on April 19, which have been bogged down partly by uncertainty over how much the IMF and the World Bank are willing to contribute to support debt reduction.

Bankers say they do not believe the two agencies will secure anything near the level of support that commercial banks would need if they were to meet Mexico's initial debt reduction demands.

Mexico has asked for between \$4.0 billion and 4.5 billion in loans or reduced interest payments through debt reduction for this year alone.

Bankers say the advisory committee will



Nicholas Brady

propose a scaled-down debt relief programme later this week.

Some bankers speculated the G-7 ministers may decide the Brady initiative should open up a second front, focussing on a country where debt is smaller than Mexico's and thus easier to handle.

Some said an initiative may be launched for Morocco but others speculated that the Philippines might be targeted.

G-7 ministers and bankers are believed to regularly consult on debt issues, but a formal meeting has never taken place, bankers said.

"Banks have many misgivings about elements of the Brady initiative," a finance official from a G-7 nation said.

"It's useful for us to discuss (the plan) and explain our perspectives. But I certainly would not want to overplay this meeting," the official said.

## Moscow on brink of 'economic catastrophe'

New proposals played

MILAN, Italy, May 14, (Reuters): Soviet human rights activist Andrei Sakharov said today his country was on the brink of economic catastrophe because reforms of the old centralised system were too slow in arriving.

Sakharov, a guest speaker at the Italian Socialist Party congress in Milan, also criticised new Soviet proposals which he said could restrict freedom of speech. It was tragic, he said, that the hallmark of the man who inspired perestroika, he said.

While praising the new course in world affairs taken by the Soviet Union, as demonstrated by its withdrawal from Afghanistan, Sakharov said some aspects of internal affairs were "deeply disturbing."

"We all know the serious economic situation which can only get worse. The budget deficit has reached astronomical proportions of more than 100 billion rubles," he said.

And people are losing interest in them because they can't buy anything.

"The old centralised system is being dismantled, and that is right. But the trouble is that it is not being replaced by anything new. We can say that the country is on the brink of an economic catastrophe."

Sakharov, who was elected in April to the new Soviet parliament after being released in 1986 from seven years of internal exile, attacked new legislation on personal responsibility now under consideration in Moscow.

Speaking in Russian without notes, he said the new laws were supposed to take the place of measures used against dissidents like himself in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Unfortunately the new norms still allow for freedom of expression to be challenged. They therefore contradict both international legislation and all the principles expressed by Amnesty International."

"The tragic thing is that underneath all these decrees appears the signature of the same person who has initiated the process of perestroika. This reflects all the contradictions, compromises and problems of the process which is under way."

Sakharov, who did not mention the name of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, described as "anti-democratic" some measures taken to quell nationalist unrest, particularly the toxic gas believed to have been used against demonstrators in Georgia earlier this year.

Meanwhile, trade experts said that President George Bush's proposal to make it easier for Moscow to sell goods to the United States will bring more diplomatic than economic benefits.

## Iraq gives incentives to Arab investors

Reconstruction programme

BAGHDAD, May 14, (Agencies): Iraq is offering incentives to businessmen from other Arab countries who invest their capital in its reconstruction programme after the eight-year war with Iran.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya quoted Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj as saying taxes would not be levied on profits of up to 20 per cent of their capital investment for the first five years and of 10 per cent for the next five years.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Chalabi was quoted today as saying he expected oil prices to fluctuate around \$18 a barrel through 1989, with a constant summer demand because of stockpiling by industrialised nations.

The Saudi Arabian newspaper Asharq Al Awsat quoted Chalabi as saying that he "anticipates demand in the summer to improve for purposes of building the reserve stocks for the summer and this is the most important period, facing OPEC."

He said he was optimistic about the continuing improvement in world oil prices throughout the year, adding "despite the haphazard events and excesses in production quotas of some OPEC member states, the price will remain fluctuating around OPEC's targeted price of \$18 per barrel."

But Chalabi described reported violations of production quotas by some member states of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries as "known, and representing only a small rate of the excesses that took place last year."

OPEC attempted to lower output from its 13 member states by more than three million barrels per day to 18.5 million barrels per day for the first six months of this year to arrest a downside in prices.

The prices rallied and have at times overshot the targeted \$18 level by two to three dollars.

OPEC is now gearing up for its June semi-annual meeting to discuss the production levels for the last half of 1989, with some member countries — notably the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait — expected to demand higher production rates.

Chalabi said the eight-member OPEC committee in charge of market monitoring and strategy will meet June 2 in Vienna ahead of the full ministerial session.

Chalabi, interviewed in Kuwait where Arab oil ministers were meeting yesterday, said that if demand for OPEC crude was rising "then it is better to increase prices rather than output."

He said Iraq was satisfied with its quota of 2.64 million barrels per day. But he renewed Iraq's long-standing demand that it must continue to have parity with Iran, saying "it is important that Iraq's quota be equal to that of Iran's under any future production ceiling."

The parity issue undermined previous quota agreements until the Gulf war halted eight years of fighting with a UN-sponsored ceasefire last August. Their quotas have been equal since Jan. 1.

Officials and perhaps ministers would meet again later to consider policy for the third quarter of the year, he added.

Industry sources say it is impossible at this stage to make any firm independent assessment on how far the non-OPEC nations are keeping their pledge to cut exports.

A source at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris said this week that the IEA, the West's oil watchdog, could detect no evidence so far of cuts by the non-OPEC suppliers.

## Reconstruction drive extended

Development plans in Basra

BASRA, Iraq, May 14, (AP): The reconstruction drive in this southern port, devastated during the Gulf war, was extended for a month because of the scale of the project, the governor announced yesterday.

Governor Anwar Sa'eed Al Hadithi told the Associated Press in an interview that the renovation projects scheduled to end May 12 were extended until June 12 to cover further parts of the city and involve new projects.

President Saddam Hussein last February set a three-month deadline to complete the reconstruction, which includes removing war debris, clearing part of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, and rebuilding the city's infrastructure.

At least 90 per cent of the buildings in Basra were destroyed or damaged in fierce Iranian artillery barrages during the 8-year Iran-Iraq war.

After the August ceasefire, the Iraqi government announced it would invest \$5 billion in rebuilding Basra.

Al Hadithi said most of the work originally planned was completed, but more projects under an additional billion dollar allotment three months ago was unfinished.

He said six small rivers in Basra had been cleared of debris, their banks reinforced and four bridges constructed.

A new electricity grid and new pipe network for drinking water have been installed.

Iraqi authorities have said they will build a new drinking water treatment plant in Basra that will receive water from the Euphrates near Nasirya, 120 kilometres (75 miles) north.

Residents consider the current water from the Shatt Al-Arab too brackish.

Al Hadithi said the government had opened its purse and offered unlimited allocations to fund the development plans in Basra which wants to be "Iraq's most beautiful and elegant city."

Iraqi officials have said the city was to be rewarded for its suffering during the war.

The government has encouraged the population of Basra who left their houses during the war to return by offering them plots of land, cash gifts and loans or grants of up to 10,000 dinars (\$32,000) to build new homes.

The government is offering similar incentives to its employees from other towns to move to Basra.

Prices rather than output."

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## Iran plans to create 2 million new jobs

NICOSIA, May 14, (Reuters): An Iranian minister today predicted annual economic growth of five per cent for the next five years, creating two million new jobs.

Planning and Budget Minister Masoud Ronghani Zanjani told a Tehran news conference the armed forces and war-hit areas would get top priority under the 1989-1993 development plan, due to go to parliament in July.

Zanjani, whose comments were reported by the Iranian news agency IRNA, said the government planned to sell some "non-strategic" industries to the private sector and use the proceeds to develop strategic units.

The council overseeing reconstruction after the eight-year war with Iraq recommended last month that all state-owned firms, apart from those considered strategic, be put up for sale.

Zanjani said the creation of two million jobs through growth in the gross domestic product would bring unemployment down from the current 15.9 per cent to 14.2 per cent in 1993.

The minister said inflation would be cut to 11 per cent by the end of the plan but did not give a current figure.

Zanjani said Iran expected to earn a total of \$63 billion from oil exports in the next five years. He said education, health and social security would get a greater share of government spending and tax revenues would be raised to pay for social services.

Overall, government spending would drop to 13.2 per cent of the gross domestic product in 1993 from 18.6 per cent now.

## Syria raises salaries by 25pc

DAMASCUS, May 14, (Reuters): Syria announced pay rises for government workers and retired people yesterday, along with increases in petrol prices and customs duties to pay for them.

President Hafez Al Assad issued a decree ordering 25 per cent increases from June for all government employees, including the police and the armed forces, to compensate for a rise in the cost of living.

Retirement pensions went up by 15 per cent, raising the monthly maximum for retired men to 2,500 Syrian pounds (\$223).

The increases will cost the government about 5.5 billion pounds (\$491 million), financial sources estimated.

This will be covered by raising fuel prices by between 25 and 50 per cent and increasing customs duties on some commodities by 50 per cent.

Economy is slowing down

## Fears of inflation abated

## Economic slowdown may ease credit curbs

NEW YORK, May 14, (UPI): The stock market soared to a post-crash high this week fed by good economic news, particularly from the auto industry.

The dollar also reached a nine-month high, ending the week with the widest trading in recent memory.

On the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow rose 56.82 points to close at 2439.70 Friday, the highest since the Oct 19, 1987, stock market crash and sharpest daily gain since last May 31, when it shot up 74.68 points.

The jump was triggered when the Labour Department Friday reported the government's producer price index rose only 0.4 per cent in April, as lower automobile prices offset a sharp increase in energy prices.

The increase matched a similarly moderate 0.4 per cent rise in the index in March after sharp increases of 1 per cent in both January and February.

Economists hailed the lower-than-expected increase as a sign that fears of a return to the high-inflation days of the early 1980s were not being realised.

"The trend which many saw over the past several months of an inevitable ratcheting up of inflation seems not to be occurring," said Dirk van Dongen, president of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors.

A slowing economy might lead the Federal Reserve Board to ease back on interest rates to avoid a recession. But economists said the central bank probably first will want more evidence that inflation is under control.

The moderate gain was attributed largely to wholesale automobile prices, which fell 2.8 per cent during the month as automakers introduced incentives to sell off high inventories.

Energy prices, however, surged 7.2 per cent during the month, the biggest monthly price increase since 1974.

Fears of inflation were abated somewhat Thursday when the Commerce Department reported April retail sales rose a

WASHINGTON, May 14, (Reuters): With the US economy slowing and inflationary pressures beginning to abate, Federal Reserve policy-makers may start thinking about easing their tight grip on the credit supply, economists say.

Although few economists see the US central bank moving quickly to lower interest rates, the Fed's policy-making Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is likely to discuss prospects for easing when it meets on Tuesday.

"Any possibility of tightening is out. The only issue will be whether they hold the course or ease off," said Donald Ratajczak, director of economic forecasting at Georgia State University. "My guess is they will probably hold the course."

The FOMC, which consists of the seven Fed board members and five of the 12 district bank presidents, meets eight times a year to set the course of monetary policy.

"Almost certainly they will leave policy unchanged," said Bank of America senior economist Frank McCormick. "What they are terribly afraid of is tipping the economy into a recession."

The Fed has been pushing interest rates higher for more than a year in an effort to slow the economy and curb inflation.

Recent economic data suggest its efforts are having an impact. Job creation slowed sharply in April, the non-farm gross national product (GNP) growth rate slowed in the January-March period, and retail sales have weakened.

Friday's report on the producer price index provided encouraging news that inflationary pressures may be waning.

Producer prices rose a moderate 0.4 per cent in April. More encouraging was a 0.1 per cent drop in the so-called core rate of inflation, which excludes the often volatile prices of food and energy. It was first decline in the core rate since October 1987.

Stock and bond prices rose sharply on the news, which raised hopes for lower interest rates.

But Federal Reserve policy-makers will be reluctant to lower rates too quickly for fear it will fuel inflation.

"The next move will be toward lower rates but it is not going to come in the near term," said Mickey Levy, chief economist at First Fidelity Bancorp in Philadelphia.

The FOMC will be aware of the slowing economy and the danger of ending the seven-year-old expansion and slipping into a recession.

Policy-makers at Tuesday's meeting could issue a more balanced directive that takes into account the weakening economy instead of leaning toward restraint as they have for the past year.

modest 0.4 per cent, the third consecutive sluggish month and further evidence the economy is slowing down.

On the dollar, traders used words like "mind-boggling" and "bizarre" to describe trading Friday that ended with the dollar at its highest levels against the West German mark and the Japanese yen since last August.

"One is hard-pressed to keep explaining the dollar's remarkable strength," said one foreign exchange trader at a major New York brokerage.

The day started with traders expecting an increase of about 0.7 per cent on the producer price index. When the report showed a weaker 0.4 per cent, traders said there was some brief dollar-selling on the belief that a reduction in inflationary pressure might allow the Federal Reserve to ease interest rates.

## Polish workers urged not to strike

WARSAW, May 14, (Reuters): Solidarity leaders, meeting amid fresh signs of labour unrest, urged workers yesterday to help Poland out of economic crisis by avoiding strikes.

The free trade union's national executive commission (KKW) issued the appeal two days after the end of a week-long strike which paralysed the copper mining industry and a day after coal miners threatened to down tools southwest of Warsaw.

The KKW, headed by Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa, said strikes would worsen the economic crisis and could disturb a liberalisation process initiated by the communist authorities under a pact with the Solidarity-led opposition.

"We think non-sensical and unjustified wage systems should be removed," the KKW said in a

statement after its meeting in the northern city of Gdansk.

"But it cannot be done overnight and strike pressure by groups of workers only deteriorates the situation, increases political tensions and leads to higher inflation and a fall in the value of the (Polish) currency," it said. "At this time economic chaos would open the way to political chaos."

The government re-legalised Solidarity in April after a seven-year ban and agreed to allow the opposition to participate in parliamentary elections in June under the pact aimed at ending labour unrest and hauling Poland out of economic crisis.

But despite appeals by Walesa and the government, hundreds of disputes have disrupted industry this year.

Project Update

MAY 11

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Thanks but it's far too long. I'll be right back.

Project Update

MAY 10

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

On schedule — as you can see!

Thanks!

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## Environmentalists welcome suspension of work on Danube dam

BUDAPEST, May 14, (Reuters): Environmentalists welcomed today an immediate suspension of work on a controversial Danube dam but said it was too early to claim a full victory.

The Hungarian government announced yesterday it was stopping work on the multi-billion-dollar Nagymaros dam, involving Austrian money and expertise, and twinned with another hydroelectric dam at Gabčíkovo, Czechoslovakia.

A final decision whether to drop the project — criticised for years by environmentalists at home and abroad — will be made within two months after talks with Austria and Czechoslovakia.

"We welcome the government's decision with cautious optimism," Danube circle co-founder Janos Varga told a news conference. The circle has spear-

headed opposition to the dam for most of this decade on economic and environmental grounds.

Gyorgy Szanto, a reform communist belonging to the circle, said the issue would test the government's autonomy from powerful lobbies still supporting the project.

"It is too early to feel triumphant," he said.

The issue pits Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, who opposes the project, against Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz, who said he would vote to complete it.

Parliament is due to consider the issue at a session starting on May 30.

The Danube circle and other environmental groups said they would lobby Members of Parliament in the next two

weeks and would organise a demonstration in Parliament Square on May 26.

More than 150,000 Hungarians have signed a petition calling for a referendum on the issue, but official and environmental sources say such a poll is unlikely.

"No referendum should be held on the matter," the government's top advisory body said in a report to the government on Friday, recommending abandoning Nagymaros.

"In these complex questions of engineering, economy and international law, responsibility must not be passed on to Hungary's citizens."

Stopping Nagymaros would halt electricity generation at Gabčíkovo dam, which is more than two-thirds complete.

In Vienna, Austrian Foreign Minister

Alois Mock today said his government would carefully examine the effect of the decision on Austrian interests.

Two of Austria's largest banks — the majority state-owned Creditanstalt and Laenderbank — have extended state-guaranteed loans totalling around eight billion Austrian schillings (\$590 million) to help Hungary finance its section of the dam.

The banks were to be repaid in electricity from Nagymaros over more than 20 years.

Mock said the decision would be "carefully reviewed in the spirit of good neighbourliness as well as in terms of its ecological, economic and social effects."

Austrian bank officials were not available for comment.



## BP signs oil deal with Angola

LISBON, Portugal, May 14. (AP) British Petroleum Co. Ltd. has signed a \$220 million prepayment deal with Angola for access to Angolan oil fields, the Angolan State Newsagency reported yesterday.

Angolan crude oil will pay off the loan over three years, said the ANGOP report monitored in Lisbon from the Angolan capital of Luanda.

A group of nine Western banks led by Union Bank of Switzerland, West Germany's Hypo-Bank, Austria's Girozentrale AG are backing the deal, ANGOP reported.

According to ANGOP the agreement marks the first step on Angola's return to the international financial scene.

Money from the deal will help pay off Angola's short-term debt estimated at \$614 million and finance imports of capital goods, said the report.

The other banks involved in the agreement are the Bank of New York, NBM of the Netherlands, Belgium's General Bank, Deutsche Bank AG and the Berliner-Händler-Und-Frankfurter Bank from West Germany and Switzerland's Credit Suisse, said ANGOP.

Production from Angola's oil fields accounts for some 30 per cent of the country's gross national product.

## ARIG unveils higher dividend

THE General Assembly of Arab Insurance Group (ARIG) has declared a cash dividend for 1988 of \$12 million, equivalent to eight per cent of the paid up capital. This represents an increase of 14 per cent compared to the dividend distributed in 1987. The increased dividend was approved together with the 1988 balance sheet at the General Assembly's annual meeting on May 11, at ARIG House, Bahrain.

ARIG's results for the year were impressive. The net profit was a record \$29.5 million, 95.4 per cent higher than the \$15.1 million profit for the fiscal year 1987.

## Long-term economic co-operation

# Moscow to give Iran \$1.9b in credits

NICOSIA, May 14. (Reuters) The Soviet Union can offer Iran up to 1.2 billion roubles (\$1.9 billion) in credits to finance joint industrial projects, a Soviet minister visiting Tehran was quoted yesterday as saying.

Railways Minister Nikola Konarev said the credits were available at an interest rate of one-and-a-half per cent, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

It did not say over what period the credits might be granted but Konarev said Moscow had drafted an agreement on long-term economic co-operation with Iran.

Konarev, visiting Tehran for a session of a joint economic commission, said he

hoped a final agreement would be ready before Iran's Parliamentary Speaker, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, went to Moscow in June.

### Export

Iran's Economics and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani said initial agreement had been reached for the export of two to three billion cubic metres of gas to the Soviet Union.

IRNA said the Soviet Union would help to build two power plants and to improve others. It also quoted Konarev as saying Moscow would assist in completing the Tehran metro.

Irvani told Konarev that Iran and the Soviet Union could start negotiating on

economic co-operation through to the year 2000, IRNA reported.

Meanwhile, Iran said on Thursday it had signed a contract for a Finnish rig to drill for oil in its side of the Caspian Sea for the first time.

Seismographic tests 20 years ago revealed at least 29 big fields in the Iranian part of the sea, Tehran Radio quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgashadeh as saying. They were not drilled because of logistical problems.

The Soviet Union, which shares the sea with Iran, has been pumping oil from its side for decades.

Azashadeh said the contract with Finland's Rauma-Repol Oy Company was

worth \$63.6 million in hard currency plus 960 million Iranian rials (\$13 million).

The 6,000-tonne drilling rig and supply vessels would be assembled in 40 months by Iran Marine Industrial Company under the Finnish firm's supervision at Neka on the Caspian coast.

### Reserves

"We have no restrictions in exploiting oil reserves in northern Iran," the radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Azgashadeh as saying. He did not say how much oil Iran expected to produce from the Caspian Sea.

Most of Iran's current oil production of 2.9 million barrels per day comes from the southwest of the country and offshore fields in the Gulf.

# Perez backs austerity

## Despite unrest

CARACAS, May 14. (Reuters) President Carlos Andres Perez is determined to push through an austerity programme despite labour unrest and the bloodiest riots in Venezuela's democratic history which marred his first 100 days in office.

Perez, an energetic Social Democrat who took office on Feb. 2, said within days of the riots in late February that he would not turn back from his economic austerity programme, designed to win International Monetary Fund (IMF) credits.

"There's no question of chan-

ging tack. I will continue the path we have started on," he said in a television interview in early March.

Official estimates say 297 people were killed and 1,800 injured from Feb. 27 to March 1 in the worst disturbances since the military government of Marcos Perez Jimenez fell in 1958.

Perez, who was Venezuela's elected President from 1974 to 1979, when he nationalised the oil industry, denied rumours of a military coup after the riots.

"The President enjoys good health and as far as the Vene-

zuelan armed forces (are concerned), one can no longer talk here about a military coup," Perez said in April.

The riots were to protest against the austerity package on Feb. 16 that sharply raised petrol and electricity prices when price controls were lifted to liberalise the heavily centralised economy.

Despite the riots and the prospect of a general strike called for May 18 by the main trade union group, the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV), Perez is sticking firmly to his austerity programme.

"The President has been very clear that we are going to make strong adjustments," chief government spokesman Pastor Heydrat told Reuters.

The leader of the Christian Democrat opposition, Eduardo Fernandez, has rejected the government's austerity policies, saying people could not afford them and they could lead to the collapse of the economy.

"We are living in the most delicate moment of the last 30 years," he said in a recent speech, referring to the period of democracy in Venezuela.

## WFP to give \$5.1 million in food aid

ROME, May 14. (AP) The world food programme said yesterday it will provide \$5.1 million in emergency food aid for people returning to Burundi and Namibia and for refugees in the Philippines, Honduras and Mexico.

The United Nations Organisation said about 100,000 returnees and displaced persons in Burundi need food aid to tide them over until the harvest. It said it will provide \$346,000 worth of rice, beans to help cover food needs through June.

The organisation said it will provide about \$1.8 million worth of maize meal, beans or pulses, canned fish or meat and skimmed milk powder for Namibian refugees returning from Angola and Zambia. It said the aid is to help feed 50,000 refugees for a year.

Food aid totaling \$938,578 will be sent to help feed Indo-Chinese refugees in the Philippines, WFP said. It includes wheat, rice, beans, cooking oil and sugar.

Honduras will receive six months of food aid totaling \$1.2 million to help feed refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The aid includes maize, rice, beans, vegetable oil, rolled oats, enriched skimmed milk powder and canned fish.

Mexico will receive \$790,000 in food aid for 23,185 Guatemalan refugees.

## Nicaragua cuts spending

# Donor countries pledge more economic aid

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 14. (AP) Nicaragua's Western donor countries pledged at a conference ending yesterday to add more than \$50 million to help finance the Sandinista government's economic recovery programme.

Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, Nicaragua's Minister for Planning and budget, said eight of the 15 attending countries and the European Economic Community pledged an immediate increase or restructuring of their aid.

He told a news conference the funds would go toward buying imports and spare parts needed for Nicaragua's agriculture and toward paying off arrears in its commercial debts to rebuild its credit.

No political strings were attached to the

pledges, officials said, and there was no linkage to Nicaragua's conduct during next February's scheduled election.

But Swedish organisers of the two-day meeting said stabilising the Nicaraguan economy was a prerequisite of its progress toward democracy, and Martinez added that "peace and development go hand-in-hand."

### Austerity

The conference came as President Daniel Ortega was in Ireland concluding a 10-nation European tour of Western Europe to plead for emergency help. He said Nicaragua needed \$250 million this year to cope with its crisis.

Nicaragua's economy was brought to the brink of collapse by years of civil warfare, a

catastrophic hurricane last year, unrealistic exchange rates and a cutoff of international credit. By the end of 1988 hyperinflation was doubling prices each month.

The conference was called by Sweden, the largest donor country outside the Soviet bloc, to underpin the tough austerity programme Nicaragua launched last year.

A key objective was to help re-establish Nicaragua's lines of credit. Swedish officials said. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) attended the two-day meeting, but the World Bank declined an invitation.

Government spending was slashed by 55 per cent during the first quarter of this compared with the same period in 1988, he said. Military spending was down 36 per cent.

## KD deposit rates ease

### Liquid market

KUWAIT, May 14. (Reuters) Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit rates eased in a liquid market today when a very little trade today to the European weekend.

Dealers said short-dated funds were well-offered at sharply lower levels following Central Bank intervention yesterday. The bank bought treasury bills on the secondary market at 8-1/2 per cent, injecting fresh funds into an already liquid system.

Offers for overnight funds dropped to two per cent from five yesterday and to six per cent from 7-1/2 for tomorrow next.

Spot-next was offered at 6-1/4 per cent, down from quotes of nine, eight, The one-week slipped to nine, eight per cent from 9-1/4, 8-3/4.

Fixed periods were little changed, with the one-month to one-year maturities indicated at a uniform range of 9-1/8, 8-5/8 per

cent. Business was reported in the three-months at 8-15/16.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged as usual today at 0.29231/41 to the dollar. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of 0.29300/50.

Meanwhile, Saudi rial interbank deposits were steady in a typically quiet market after falling yesterday in response to steep declines in Eurodollar rates.

Dealers said business was minimal in a normal trend during the European weekend, when major offshore players are absent.

The rate for spot-next funds was unchanged at 9-3/4, 1/4 per cent with no deals were reported.

Fixed periods were also quiet, with the one to three-month maturities indicated steady at 9-3/4, 5/8 per cent and six-months to one-year at 9-13/16, 11/16 per cent.

The spot/next was also steady at 3.7500/03 to the dollar.

| AMMAN                |       | OPNG  | CLSE |
|----------------------|-------|-------|------|
| ALA-ADDIN COMPANY    | 1.89  | 1.88  |      |
| ARAB ALUMINUM IND.   | 2.00  | 1.98  |      |
| ARAB BANK            | 148.0 | 148.0 |      |
| ARAB CHEMICAL DTR    | 4.42  | 4.50  |      |
| ARAB FINANCE CORP.   | 2.41  | 2.41  |      |
| ARAB INSURANCE       | 1.09  | 1.08  |      |
| ARAB INT. INV/TRADE  | 0.62  | 0.62  |      |
| ARAB INT. INV. INS   | 1.01  | 1.06  |      |
| ARAB INTER. HOTELS   | 1.09  | 1.12  |      |
| ARAB JOR/INVST/BK    | 2.35  | 2.30  |      |
| ARAB PAPER CON/TRA   | 0.39  | 0.37  |      |
| ARAB PHARMA. MANF.   | 3.34  | 3.47  |      |
| ARAB PHARMA/CHEM     | 1.03  | 1.02  |      |
| ARAB POTASH CO.      | 1.65  | 1.65  |      |
| ARABIAN SEAS INS.    | 1.65  | 1.65  |      |
| BANK OF JORDAN       | 15.10 | 15.10 |      |
| BEIT AL-MAL/BEITNA   | 1.10  | 1.10  |      |
| BELGIUM INSURANCE    | 1.00  | 0.95  |      |
| CAIRO AMMAN BANK     | 31.00 | 30.00 |      |
| CONFECT/CHOCOLATE    | 1.05  | 1.25  |      |
| DAR AL SHAAB PRESS   | 0.47  | 0.46  |      |
| DAR ALADNA DV/INV.   | 2.42  | 2.43  |      |
| DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.   | 0.81  | 0.82  |      |
| FINANCE/CREDIT/COR   | 0.75  | 0.71  |      |
| GARAGE OWNERS OFF    | 4.60  | 4.60  |      |
| GENERAL INSURANCE    | 2.39  | 2.63  |      |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT   | 1.27  | 1.25  |      |
| GENERAL MINING       | 2.10  | 2.10  |      |
| HIMMEL MINERALS      | 0.75  | 0.75  |      |
| HOLY LAND INS.       | 1.44  | 1.44  |      |
| IND./MATCH CHEM      | 0.66  | 0.68  |      |
| INDSTRL DEVLPT BIK   | 1.65  | 1.65  |      |
| INDSTRL/COMM/AGR.    | 1.62  | 1.62  |      |
| INDUSTRIAL INVEST.   | 0.75  | 0.75  |      |
| INTERCOM/INV         | 0.13  | 0.13  |      |
| IRBID ELECTRICITY    | 0.90  | 0.90  |      |
| ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE   | 0.64  | 0.64  |      |
| ITERMED/PETRI/CH     | 1.96  | 1.98  |      |
| J.TOUR-SM/COMPLEX    | 0.79  | 0.80  |      |
| JERUSALEM INS.       | 1.26  | 1.29  |      |
| JOR TOBACCO/CI GARET | 19.50 | 19.50 |      |
| JOR CERAMIC FACTOR   | 2.00  | 2.00  |      |
| JOR EAGLE INS.       | 25.05 | 25.05 |      |
| JOR ELECTRIC POWER   | 1.49  | 1.49  |      |
| JOR FINANCE HOUSE    | 1.20  | 1.22  |      |

## Economy recovering

### Record jobless rate to linger

OSLO, Norway, May 14. (AP) Belt-tightening and improved oil prices are helping put Norway's rattled economy back on track, but record unemployment will linger through this election year, the government said yesterday.

Norway's oil-fired economy is recovering from the oil price fall of 1986, Finance Minister Gunnar Berge said in presenting the annual May budget review, due for parliamentary approval.

The minority labour government, facing a Sept. 11 national election, has said earlier it has curbed inflation and strengthened trade. But opposition parties claim basic economic imbalances have been ignored.

Inflation has been brought down and was 4.6 per cent in April 1989, compared with March 1987 peak of 10.4 per cent. A 1986 trade deficit of 40 billion kroner (\$5.88 billion) has been turned into a 13 billion kroner (\$1.9 billion) surplus this year, Berge said.

Berge said government policy had resigned in a consumer spending spree that peaked in 1986, with domestic demand falling 4.5 per cent from 1986 to 1988. A further 1.8 per cent drop was expected this year.

In the review, the government raised its oil price estimate by 10 per cent to 110 kroner (\$16) per barrel.

Berge predicted effects on unemployment would start to show next year as a result of the improved economy and the government's 5.4 billion kroner (\$790 million) state jobs programme.

Opposition parties claimed the jobs programme disguises a real unemployment rate of more than five per cent, rather than April's official 3.7 per cent.

The overnight lending rate, Norway's key interest rate, has been cut by 3.3 percentage points in 12 months to 10.5 per cent, a measure which is expected to stimulate growth, Berge said.

The government said it wants to further relax foreign exchange regulations, but slowly. On May 9, the government opened the Norwegian bond market to foreigners for the first time since 1984.

Norwegians will be allowed to buy foreign bonds "as soon as the necessary tax measures have been put into effect," Berge said.

The option of a European Monetary System (EMS) associate membership was left open, he said.

## Non-oil exports surge

JAKARTA, May 14. (OPECNA) The total value of non-oil and non-gas commodities exported by Indonesia increased from \$8.50 billion in 1987 to \$11.50 billion in 1988, according to a report by Indonesia's Central Bank.

But the export value of coffee, rattan and spices was down in 1988 over the previous year, the bank report said.

The value of Indonesia's coffee exports declined by about 50 per cent from \$146.60 million in 1987 to \$73.50 million last year, while the export value of spices declined from 241.40 million to 210.70 million.

Indonesia's export earnings from rattan were down from \$535.80 million in 1987 to \$335.10 million in 1988.

The volume of coffee exports was down from 297,300 tons in 1987 to 196,200 tons in 1988, while the rattan export volume plunged massively from 130,100 tons in 1987 to 57,800 tons last year.

Timber, natural rubber and textiles constituted the bulk of Indonesia's non-oil exports during the year.

The value of timber exports, according to the report, rose from \$2.20 billion in 1987 to \$2.70 billion in 1988, while the value of rubber exports was up from \$62.20 million to 1.20 billion.

|   |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|--|
| K.R.E.B.                                | 0.340 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| BURGAN BANK                             | 0.295 | 0.290 | 0.290 | 0.290 | 900000  | 28    |  |
| K.F.HOUSE                               | 0.485 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 170000  | 12    |  |
| INVESTMENT SECTOR                       |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT INV. CO.                            | 0.095 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| K.F.F.C.T.C.                            | 0.210 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| K.I.I.C.                                | 0.070 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| CON.FACILITIES                          | 0.420 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| AHLIAH INV.                             | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| I.F.A.                                  | 0.043 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| INV. PEARL KWT                          | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 0.088 | 80000   | 1     |  |
| NATIONAL INV.                           | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.066 | 0.066 | 600000  | 5     |  |
| KWT PROJECTS                            | 0.084 | 0.084 | 0.084 | 0.083 | 1240000 | 12    |  |
| INSURANCE SECTOR                        |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT INSURANCE                           | 0.590 | 0.580 | 0.590 | 0.580 | 322654  | 2     |  |
| GULF INSURANCE                          | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| AHLIAH INS. CO.                         | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| WARBA INS. CO.                          | 0.340 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| REAL EST SECTOR                         |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT R.EST. CO.                          | 0.134 | 0.134 | 0.134 | 0.134 | 240000  | 4     |  |
| UNIT R.EST. CO.                         | 0.056 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| NAT R.EST. CO.                          | 0.180 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| SALHAH R.E.                             | 0.080 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT R.E.I.COM                           | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| INDUSTRY SECTOR                         |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| MAT IND. CO.                            | 0.500 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT M.P. IND.                           | 0.300 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT CEMENT CO.                          | 0.170 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| REF. IND. CO.                           | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| M.A.M.T.CO.                             | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| GULF CABLE                              | 0.980 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| K.P.H.IND. CO.                          | 0.176 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| CONT.MARINE                             | 0.280 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| K.S.H.REP.CO.                           | 0.045 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| SERVICES SECTOR                         |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| OVERLAND TRANS                          | 0.082 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| K.N.C. CO.                              | 0.180 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT HOTELS CO.                          | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| P.WAREHOUSING                           | 0.146 | 0.142 | 0.144 | 0.142 | 320000  | 8     |  |
| COM.MKT.CMPX.                           | 0.082 | 0.081 | 0.081 | 0.081 | 520000  | 9     |  |
| MOBILE TELE.                            | 0.310 | 0.305 | 0.310 | 0.305 | 1600000 | 27    |  |
| KWT COMPUTER                            | 0.150 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| FOOD SECTOR                             |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| LIVESTOCK T.T.                          | 0.150 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| UNIT FISHERIES                          | 0.150 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| UNIT POULTRY                            | 0.230 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KWT FOODS                               | 0.290 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| AGRI.FOOD PRD.                          | 0.150 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| NON-KWT SECTOR                          |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| BH.N.INTER.BK                           | 0.063 | 0.063 | 0.063 | 0.063 | 160000  | 2     |  |
| BH.N.E&P.BK                             | 0.046 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| CONSTR. INVEST.                         | 0.083 | 0.083 | 0.083 | 0.083 | 480000  | 7     |  |
| A.G. INV.GROP.                          | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 480000  | 4     |  |
| FIRST.GULF BK                           | 0.350 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| BH.N.KUW.GROP                           | 0.078 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| GULF MEDICAL                            | 0.033 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE                   |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| FINANCIAL SECTOR                        | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL     | TRADE |  |
| GULF INTL INS                           | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| ARAB INT CO.                            | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| SHARJAH INS                             | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| GULF UNION INS                          | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| R.K. INTL BOWT                          | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| AJMAN CEMENT                            | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR                       |       |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| FUJAIRAH CEMT                           | 0.000 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| SHARJAH CEMENT                          | 0.010 |       |       |       |         |       |  |
| GULF CEMENT                             | 0.010 |       |       |       |         |       |  |



International boom in smuggling wildlife products

# Endangered animals highly profitable

**Illegal shipments of sex pills made from rhino horns, python skin boots, some stuffed with narcotics are just some items that has turned New York Port into an animal morgue**

By Caren Ross

NEW YORK, (Reuters): An international boom in smuggling animal products has turned the storage room at this country's busiest port of entry for wildlife into a virtual animal morgue.

Sealed in plastic bags and frozen in a room here are confiscated sea turtles, crocodiles, snakes, otter skins, spotted cat furs, ibex horns and yak — contraband from all over the world.

Illegal shipments of Asian sex pills made from rhinoceros horns, and suitcases stuffed with African elephant ivory and python skin boots are evidence of what wildlife experts say is a growing trade in endangered species and their products.

They say the business is as shadowy and profitable as drug trafficking — and that the two are increasingly linked.

"These people in the illegal



Mark Phillips, an inspector with the US fish and wildlife service, holds elephant tusks at the bureau's Kennedy Airport seizure room.

wildlife trade are in it for the money. They'll deal whatever they can, whether it's firearms, drugs or animals," said inspector Bill Donato at New York's Kennedy airport.

"Just about everyone we go in on has narcotics," said Mike Elkins, an enforcement agent for the US fish and wildlife service.

He said \$3.5 million worth of drugs had been found in the United States last year during searches of suspected animal smugglers.

Cocaine in an illegal shipment of polar bear hides, and heroin in the skull of a tiger-skin rug are just some of the booty. AK-47 assault rifles were found in a shipment of Rhino horns.

Ginette Hemley, director of traffic, the trade monitoring branch of the world wide fund for nature, said about a third of the five billion dollar worldwide trade in live animals and animal products was illegal under international and national laws

designed to protect endangered species. Some of the contraband is intercepted, most is not.

"We really don't have the resources to physically check everything that comes through," inspector Mark Phillips said. "We only examine about 10 to 15 per cent of (wildlife) shipments at the port of New York."

The United States, with the biggest wildlife market in the world, has only 60 fish and wildlife inspectors assigned to check some 90,000 shipments of animal cargo each year.

Phillips said it was only through random searches that inspectors had turned up the hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of spoils stashed away at the storage room, where five-foot (1.5 metre) elephant tusks and jewellery made from the coveted ivory litter the floor.

Turtle soup and live turtle eggs are in the refrigerator, and a dead South African antelope is in the corner.

The big animals are harder to conceal from authorities, but dealers hide them in mislabelled shipping crates.

False export documents are another tactic, Phillips said, holding up a pill made from crushed rhinoceros horns that arrived in a box from crushed rhinoceros horns that arrived in a box from Beijing labelled "China tea."

"We tend to check Oriental medicinal," he said, "because they often contain bear gall bladders or rhino horns, which are illegal."

The pills are used as aphrodisiacs in Asia, he said.

Products made from endangered animals are hugely profitable, because, like drugs, they are relatively inexpensive to get and undergo huge price mark-ups on their way to the end buyer.

There are also enormous mark-ups on live animals and birds. Hemley said a hyacinth macaw parrot would fetch about \$50 for its captor in the jungles of Bolivia

and sell for at least \$8,000 at pet stores in New York. Chimpanzees are worth \$25,000 and a baby gorilla \$150,000.

"These animals are worth their weight in gold — or heroin," said Shirley McGreal, chairwoman of the international primate protection league. Apes and monkeys are popular pets and sources of food in parts of Asia, she said.

In the United States, a party to the UN convention on international trade in endangered specific (CITES), primates may be imported only for medical research or for zoos. Yet the country is the world's largest primate importer and increasingly there are reports of pet stores selling these and other contraband animals, Hemley said.

Random telephone calls to pet stores in New York city showed that many were willing to sell the endangered Bolivian hyacinth Macaw, for example. But only on special order and only at a cost of about \$10,000.

Coaxed to reproduce

## Singapore's pampered birds

By Ruth Youngblood

SINGAPORE, (UPI): With an alarm clock set to ring every two hours, biologist Jacques See spends his nights dashing from a bed in his office to a laboratory where three noisy fledglings await feeding.

Whipping up a fresh meal of sunflower seeds, milk powder, yoghurt, wheat germ, ground corn mashed with glucose, see gently tends to the brood of nanday conure parrots.

The threatened species native to South America are among the pampered birds at the new breeding and research centre, where experts provide optimum conditions in the hope of coaxing victims of pollution, industrialisation and human carelessness to reproduce.

"Most parent birds can only take care of two of their young at a time, with the weakest dying," said See, carefully wiping excess food from a featherless, squirming baby bird. "There is a higher survival rate if we take over."

The removal of the progeny

enables the parents to conserve their energy and produce a second clutch of eggs, exactly what the researchers are hoping for.

The centre is an offshoot of the Jorung Bird Park, the world's largest walk-in aviary, where visitors can view 3,500 birds representing 400 species.

But ornithologists realised separate extensive facilities were essential for breeding, said Thiruchelvam, the resident veterinarian who is also the park's executive director.

To ensure maximum privacy and a supportive environment, the center was built to contain 132 aviaries plus nurseries, incubators and laboratories.

Each aviary has been prepared according to the whims of its two occupants, with familiar plants and foliage and a nest constructed of the natural materials preferred by the birds. To ensure privacy, a black shade covers one side, with slits enabling the staff to monitor progress, while the other faces lush vegetation outside, without another possibly

distracting bird in sight.

Even the employees speak in hushed tones.

"We've eliminated anything that might be threatening," said Thiruchelvam. "These birds are shy or non-communal and do not reach their breeding potential under any stress."

Each pair receives extra calcium and protein in their diets, but special meals for the different species are prepared with the ingredients and amounts itemized outside each aviary so there are no mistakes.

A mixture of fresh greens, papaya, banana and apple goes to two pink pigeons, sent from by the government of Mauritius, where deforestation has taken such a severe toll on the indigenous birds that only 25 are left in the wild on the Indian Ocean island.

"A successful mating would be a breakthrough," Thiruchelvam said, since the birds have never been bred outside the Mauritius. "What makes this particularly difficult is they tend to be poor parents."

## A rare success story in Brazil

By Paul Mylrea

PRAIA DO FORTE, Brazil, (Reuters): Amazon forests are burning and Copacabana beach is polluted, but turtles in Brazil are being saved.

In a rare ecological success story, a project started nine years ago has put into the sea about 245,000 newly-hatched marine turtles saved from their main predator — man.

The conservation team led by husband and wife Guy and Maria Angela Guagni dei Marcovaldi started the project at Praia do Forte in 1980, the same year the government gave legal protection to two endangered species of marine turtle.

The government set up their project near Salvador in Bahia state in response to pressure from international environmental groups concerned that marine turtles, migratory creatures by nature, were arriving in Brazil, but not leaving. They were being hunted to extinction, mainly for their meat.

"The first task was to stop the killing," said the team with the idea of a standard environmental project, but it didn't work.

Mrs Marcovaldi said, recalling the first days of Project Tamar — for Tartarugas Marinhas, marine turtles.

It soon became clear that without first helping the poor fishing communities on the coast, the slaughter would not end.

Convincing 80 of the local turtle hunters to turn from poaching to game-keeping, the Marcovaldis hired them to patrol the beaches and stop the killing.

"So now we have 93 staff, of which 80 are fishermen paid to patrol an area of beach. It doesn't stop them fishing and they get paid for two hours work a day," Mrs Marcovaldi said.

At the start, Tamar staff drove up and down the beach every night in specially adapted vehicles searching for female turtles laying eggs.

The eggs were taken to be hatched under guard at the project headquarters, located behind a lighthouse on a beach with coral reefs which form natural pools.

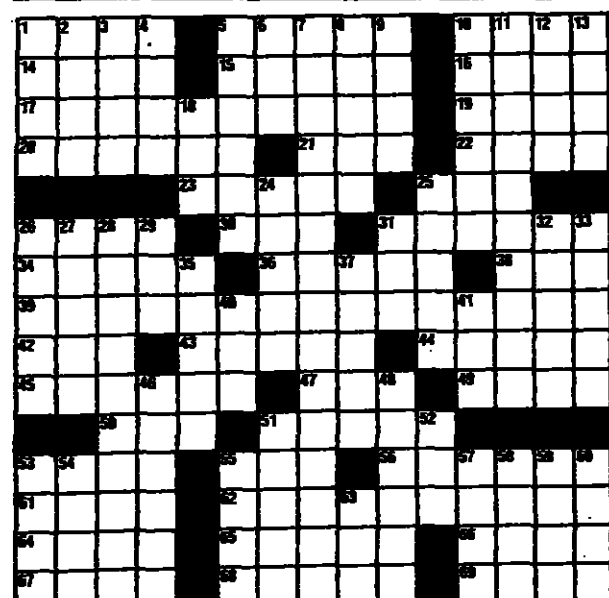
The campaign was backed by a vigorous education programme showing that raising chickens was a more economic source of meat than turtles.

Videos of village life featured por-turtle propaganda — ex-poachers explaining why they had given up hunting, and songs about turtles.

The impact of the programme and the evident respect enjoyed by the Marcovaldis meant security could be relaxed.

The nightly egg-hunting continues in the laying season, but on much of the 350 kms (220 miles) of beach covered by the project, the turtles' eggs are recorded and left alone. The poachers-turned-gamekeepers ensure they hatch safely.

### TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Shavers
  - Be on the alert
  - Meter or scope
  - Egyptian god
  - Mites
  - Enthusiastic
  - Dodgers
  - Home turf
  - Beaver State
  - Curve
  - Draft status
  - Station
  - Money-makers
  - Gets some
  - Shutouts
  - Churchill's
  - Few
  - Sapor
  - Mixtures
  - Mar. 17th VIP
  - Nigerian
  - Was defeated
  - Colony member
  - Music hall
  - Parts of the
  - lunar
  - landscape
  - Forsake one's
  - duty
  - These or those
  - Fr.
  - Track event
  - Social
  - Airline
  - employee
  - Preside at tea
  - Asian holiday
  - Seizes power
  - French shelter
  - City on Long
  - Island Sound
  - Theater
  - section
  - Hebrew letter
  - Lotion
  - ingredient
  - Annealing oven
  - Musical
- DOWN**
- Install
  - French
  - composer
  - Edouard
  - 1823-92
  - Cupid
  - Potion
  - Obstacle
  - Composer of
  - "Tannhäuser"
  - Hershtiser
  - is one
  - Dickens'
  - masterpiece,
  - with
  - "A"
  - Sign of
  - disapproval
  - Eastern
  - temple
  - Ohio River
  - port
  - 12 Celebration
  - Brainstorm
  - Sign of
  - approval
  - Obsolete
  - Change
  - Man on the
  - move
  - Coeur d'
  - Idaho
  - "Steel City"
  - Canals
  - Suet
  - Old French
  - coin
  - Birds' resting
  - place
  - Sound in the
  - night
  - Jury
  - 40 NYC time
  - Pitcher feature
  - Spookier
  - Drainage
  - ditches
  - 51 — Mesta,
  - former society
  - nestless
  - 52 Mao — tung
  - 53 Grow
  - wearisome
  - 54 Hautboy
  - 55 Ski lift
  - 57 Japanese
  - tree
  - 58 Thespian's
  - quest
  - 59 South Pacific
  - boat
  - 60 Let it stand
  - 63 Gvt. section

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
TURN THOSE NOSTRUMS UPSIDE-DOWN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**

AK  
AKQJ103  
AK5  
J5

**WEST**

J862  
7  
QJ109  
A843

**EAST**

105  
9865  
743  
Q962

**SOUTH**

Q9743  
42  
862  
K107

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| Pass  | Pass | 2♥    | Pass |
| 2NT   | Pass | 3♥    | Pass |
| 3♠    | Pass | 4♥    | Pass |
| 4♥    | Pass | 5♥    | Pass |
| 5NT   | Pass | 6NT   | Pass |
| Pass  | Pass |       |      |

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

You can't play bridge by rote. All those generalities you learn as a tyro serve only as guidelines in the play. On this hand you have to go contrary to two of those rubrics, depending on what line declarer adopts, if you want to be sure to defeat the contract.

Since South had showed minimum values, North was a trifle aggressive in the auction. His bid over game inquired about a club control.

When South dutifully bid five no trump to confirm possession of the king, North opted for the no trump slam to protect his partner's monarch from immediate demise.

A low club lead would have given declarer no chance, but West was not clairvoyant. Declarer won the diamond lead in dummy and cashed the ace-king of spades. All he had to do to make his contract was to get to his hand so he could discard one of dummy's losers on his queen of spades, and the only suit to offer a means of transportation was clubs.

However, declarer was faced with a choice. He could play East for either the queen or ace of clubs. Since West might have led a club from the queen, he decided to play East for the lady and rely on a club finesse.

At trick four declarer led a low club. Now we know all about second-hand low, but if East had heeded that saw, declarer's ten would force the ace and the king would be the entry to hand. But if East flies in with the queen, there is no entry and the contract fails.

Now let's assume that, instead, declarer leads the jack of clubs at trick four. If East "covers an honor with an honor," the defenders are dead. If he plays low, declarer again is frustrated from gaining entry to his hand when West does his part by withholding the ace.



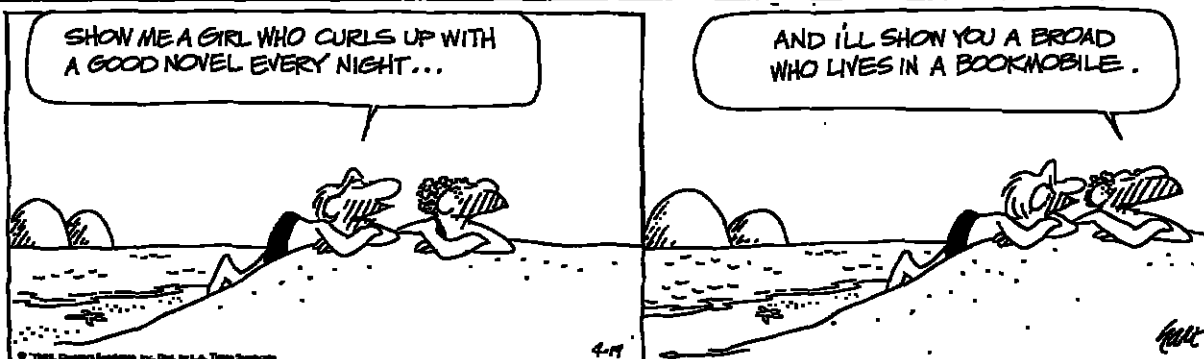
### THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



### B.C.

By Johnny Hart



### YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
- Try to use just a little more commonsense. You are liable to allow your attention to slip and should do your best to restrain the tendency. Keep your eyes and ears very much open. Be reasonable.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
- You will not have time to do all you would like to do, so concentrate on doing what has to be done. And do not allow yourself to be sidetracked. Be more tolerant.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
- You will tend to tire rather more easily and should take care you do what has to be done early on. Think a little longer before you choose, but do not dither. Try to look on the positive side. Be generous.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
- By using a little more commonsense you will know how to deal with a complicated situation. Your lucky numbers are 2 and 15. You may have some good luck but you should not rely on it. Make sure you pay your bills promptly.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**
- You should ensure you do not try to do anything that is not strictly practical. Do not leave a letter unanswered, instead reply promptly. Do not allow work to ruin your private life. Be polite.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**
- You will be able to reassure a friend and he will appreciate your doing so. Do not put off making a phonecall that will have to be made before long. Avoid acting on impulse and do not jump to conclusions. Be kind.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**
- Do not think you are too old, you are only if you think you are. However, do not try to do anything that would be ridiculous at your age. Show a little bit more optimism, but do not just hope for the best. Be grateful.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
- You will be in a better frame of mind but caution is still required. If you feel tired leave making an important decision until tomorrow. But not longer. Do all you can to avoid getting into deep waters. Be helpful.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
- You will not feel quite as calm as in the past, but you should try not to lose your head or temper. If you concede a point or two you will be well rewarded in the long run. Make sure you do not get dragged into an argument with friends.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
- If you expect more than you deserve you will be most disappointed. You will be able to make good progress at work, but you must continue to work hard. Remember that not everything is as it would seem to be and take precautions.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**
- You are more liable to be led astray and should be especially on your guard. Something you have been meaning to do should be done without further delay.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**
- Something you have been doing will have better results than you had expected. The general prospects are indeed encouraging. Make sure you know what sort of battery is required for a gadget you use a great deal. Be receptive.



# The richest man in the world?

A YEAR or two ago, the Sultan of Brunei gave a birthday party for his 11-year-old daughter at Claridge's Hotel in Mayfair. The theme of the party was Alice in Wonderland. The entrance to the party was along a tunnel made to look like a warren with roots growing through it. The warren came to an opening where a caterpillar sitting on a giant mushroom smoked a pipe. Then the warren continued into the ballroom where a wall of 20 video monitors showed a film of Alice in Wonderland. There was a laser show and a discotheque and fruit machines. The cost of the party was about £100,000.

In researching the sultan, stories like this continuously emerge. After a while, spending on this scale begins to seem normal. Instead of thinking "what an extravagance" one begins to take it for granted. The sultan can buy whatever he wants. He pays whatever it takes. Whereas ordinary mortals may only express themselves with a paint brush or a word processor, the sultan can express himself with a cheque book.

## Spoken

One of the ways in which his cheque book has spoken has been through the building of a palace. It is the biggest palace in the world. The throne room contains 12 vast chandeliers each weighing a ton. The palace boasts a total of 564 chandeliers which, with other light fittings, require 51,490 bulbs. That means that if the light bulbs were to last, say, one year, a servant could change 200 bulbs a day and be indefinitely employed doing only this job. The royal banquet hall seats 4,000.

Marble is omnipresent. There are 38 different kinds of marble in the palace, covering 14 acres. The Moroccan onyx marble, it is claimed, came from the last remaining block of its kind in the world. There are 1,788 rooms, 257 toilets, 44 staircases and 18 lifts. The total floor space is 2.2 million square feet or just over 30 acres. That is the equivalent to the floor space of 2,450 semi-detached houses of the sort that ordinary British mortals inhabit. The total cost about \$400 million.

Having constructed this vast building, however, the sultan was not content. The finish was not what a man of his means rightly expected. The building had been thrown up in a rush. And, to be honest, it was thought by some to look more like a multi-storey car park than a palace. He had spent \$400 million on a badly conceived and badly finished palace. What was the sultan to do? The obvious answer was to build another one. So he did.

The country of Brunei is not, as most westerners assume, in the Middle East. Brunei is a tiny country of two wedges hammered into the north coast of the island of Borneo. Brunei has been a British protectorate for much of this century and that is why the sultan has such a strong connection with Britain. He went to Sandhurst with his brother in 1966.

The fantastic wealth of the sultan is derived from oil and

His full name is His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Ibni Al Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, DKMB, DK, PSSUB, DPKG, DPNB, DSNB, PSLJ, SPMB, PANB, GCMG, DMN, DK (Kelantan), DK (Johor), DK (Negeri Sembilan), Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum, Grand Order of the Mugunghwa, DK (Pahang), BRI, Collar of the Nile, the Order of Al Hussein Bin Ali, the Civil Order of Oman, DK (Selangor), DK (Perlis). PGAT, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam. But this is usually shortened to the Sultan of Brunei. **James Bartholomew**, the Sultan's unofficial biographer, profiles the mysterious monarch.



A snooker lesson for the Sultan's eldest son at a reported £3,000 a lesson.

gas which is exploited on his behalf by the Shell group — another British connection. The biggest reserves are of gas which is liquefied and put into huge refrigerated tankers. A fleet of these tankers ferries the gas from Brunei to Tokyo where it is used to heat the homes and the rice of thousands of Japanese.

## Income

The net income controlled by the sultan which results from the country's energy wealth, is conservatively estimated at \$2 billion a year. That is equivalent to \$229,000 every hour. The beauty of Brunei's wealth, from the sultan's point of view, is that he has to share it around so little. In the first place the population of the country is only 230,000. If the money were spread around evenly, the people of Brunei would certainly be amongst the wealthiest in the world. But of course the wealth is not spread around evenly. The sultan has a firm grip on it. As well as being head of state, he is also prime minister and defence minister. One of his brothers is foreign minister and another is finance minister. The government of Brunei is a family business.

It is true that the sultan allows much of the gross income to be spent on free education for the people of Brunei, free health care and some subsidised housing. But the \$2 billion mentioned above, is the amount left over after these expenses.

And some people in Brunei are undoubtedly getting a very small share of the gas wealth.

While the sultan in his palace chooses which jacuzzi to use, some of his subjects in Brunei's water villages are defecating into an idle river where their excrement slowly accumulates. Once, when I was two miles from the biggest palace in the world, a young man living in a shanty town asked me to take his photograph and send him a copy. He and his friends could not afford a cheap camera. The poor of Brunei are not starving. But they are poor.

The sultan is a shy man. In international meetings of heads of state he still looks like a schoolboy wearing his Sunday best suit and unexpectedly finding himself at a master's meeting. He sits self-consciously, tries to look serious and has little to say. Most of the other heads of state got to their position by landing on top of a rugged scum of national politics. The sultan got there primarily by being the son of his father.

His father dominated the sultan for much of the sultan's 42 years. When only 19, the sultan married his cousin, Princess Saleha who, according to a privately published biography of the sultan was "a sweet, bedimpled, soulful-eyed lass of sixteen." But as time went by this be-dimpled lass became a rather plump woman. And in the early 1980s the sultan found someone rather

different. He met and began a close relationship with an air-hostess on the small national airline. She was called Mariam Bell and was a strange but successful mixture of half Bruneian, quarter Japanese and quarter British. She was far more outgoing and Western in her behaviour than most Bruneian girls.

The sultan would not have astonished Bruneians by having a quiet affair with Mariam because that would have been normal behaviour. But he did astonish them by marrying her. He now keeps up two legitimate Muslim households.

The sultan's total wealth amounts to more than \$25 billion. He and his public relations men deny this. They say that such a sum can only be arrived at by including the foreign reserves of the country. This is true. But it is clearly the case that the sultan and his family do control these themselves. In any case, the attempt to make the sultan seem less rich than he is, is futile. The man owns too much, too publicly for that. There is the Dorchester Hotel in London, plush Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles and the marble-mothered Hyatt Hotel in Singapore. He has a private fleet of planes including the latest addition, an Airbus, especially customised in America.

Other purchases discovered during my research and not hitherto publicised include a mansion near Kensington

Palace and other houses in London, notably a stately home in the unlikely location of Southall. There he has private grounds of 47 acres, perhaps the biggest garden of any house in Greater London apart from Buckingham Palace. And so the list of possessions goes on and on. The attempt to obscure his wealth is like hiding an elephant with a handkerchief.

## Lifestyle

The lifestyle which the sultan's wealth affords him seems, at first glance, to be enviable. He can indulge whichever pastime takes his fancy. He used to be a keen polo player but he plays much less frequently now. For a long time he has been a keen pilot. He flies both helicopters and aeroplanes. Doubtless he will, in due course, even qualify to fly his new Airbus. He also enjoys swimming. At the second palace he built, there are five pools including one of Olympic size. He also enjoys shooting and has a formidable armoury. He can even shoot off Exocets when he feels like it.

Most countries of Brunei's size could not dream of buying Exocets. The Sultan can not only buy them, his Army has been filmed using them for target practice. Each Exocet costs around £100,000.

In the 1970s the sultan frequented the nightclubs of London and Paris. He was befriended by Adrian Khashoggi, the arms dealer who was recently arrested in Switzerland on an array of charges centring on the alleged illegal help he gave to Marcos to hide money which the ex-dictator took from the Philippines. Khashoggi's fun-loving parties were famous. He mixed pleasure, business and politics in a heady cocktail. "If you had that much money," said a friend of the sultan's, "wouldn't you have fun?"

Khashoggi was a man of great charm, resourcefulness and experience, as the now notorious Pamela Bordes could apparently testify. The young sultan, shy and inexperienced in the way of the world, was influenced in a way which may not have been ideal. Khashoggi, as a guide for life, was rather different from the ones Prince Charles has enjoyed, such as Lord Butler or Laurens van der Post.

In order to hold on to power in Brunei, the sultan must be, or appear to be a devout Muslim and keen follower of traditional Brunei ways. He has gone so far as to proclaim himself the religious leader of Brunei. This move has had the benefit (as many, though not all, will think it to be) of keeping Islam moderate in Brunei. The sultan can take credit for the fact that people are not stoned for adultery there. But his religious role and his position as head of state mean that he has to live two very different lives. One day he is in traditional national dress, soberly listening to Holy Quran reading competition — a few days later he may be in a Western suit in London. One day he dons his traditional role, the next he wears the Savile Row suits of a man about town.



The Sultan of Brunei

But much more difficult than this two-tone existence is his need to deal with the bankers, arms-dealers, flatterers, secret service men and con-men who continuously attempt to crowd into his life and walk away with his money.

Every now and again, a banker or stockbroker or investment manager approaches me and asks for tips on how to get the business of the sultan. I wonder if it is worth giving them advice considering the sort of people that the sultan has leant on before.

After Khashoggi came a very dubious Indian, Shri Chandra Swamiji Maharaj — known as the "Swami". He, like Khashoggi, befriended Pamela Bordes and, like Khashoggi, is awaiting trial on various charges. His accuser is the Indian government which alleges foreign exchange misdemeanours.

More recently His Majesty has been linked with Mohamed Al Fayed, the current owner of the House of Fraser stores group and its flagship, Harrods. The sultan loves Harrods. He buys Christmas presents for his staff there. It has been alleged by "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive of Lohuro, that Al Fayed was helped to buy House of Fraser by the sultan. Inspectors were appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate what really happened during the

purchase of House of Fraser. The report was leaked through the Observer. Unfortunately, due to the British government's refusal to publish, I can't tell you what the report said about Rowland's allegation. A Member of Parliament has said in the House of Commons: that the Al Fayed's are "fraudulent rogues".

Perhaps it is understandable if the sultan fell under the spell of Mohamed Al-Fayed since he was in the company of the British government. Moreover the sultan says he has severed business ties with Al Fayed. The British government, on the other hand, seems content to let the Al Fayed hold on to the most famous store in the world.

Both the sultan and the British government could be embarrassed by the inspector's report into House of Fraser. Indeed this newspaper has already reported claims that concern about possible embarrassment to the sultan is one of the reasons why the report has not yet been published.

## Contacts

The sultan has good contacts in the high echelons of the British establishment. Three lords and a former prime minister all seem concerned to look after him. Edward Heath objected when he saw the sultan insulted. Lord Bramall is on the board of the Sultan's British hotel, the Dorchester. Lord

Fanshawe is reluctant to say exactly what he does for the sultan but he does something and has certainly been concerned at what he considers bad publicity for the Eastern monarch. And now Lord Chalfont, a director of Brunei's public relations company, has written a 200 page "case for the defence" of the sultan.

Men such as these lords naturally maintain high ethical standards in their conduct. But the sultan's difficulties in life have largely stemmed from his difficulty in sorting out honest men and con-men. He has many other trials as well. The sultan also has to deal with those who would like democracy in Brunei. On top of that he has also had to face the embarrassment which his attempted gift of \$10 million to the Contras caused (the money went astray). And back at home in Brunei, there is intrigue and jealousy within the top echelons of Brunei society to be dealt with.

The sultan's fantastic wealth may seem like a wonderful fantasy. But like the fantasy of Alice in Wonderland, his life also has moments when it is testing, and darkly bizarre.

© James Bartholomew is the author of *The Richest Man in the World* — the Sultan of Brunei, published by Viking; *By God's Will: A Portrait of the Sultan of Brunei*, by Lord Chalfont is published by Weidenfeld.

## Wealth of memoirs on pop artist

# Open season on Warhol

By Waldemar Januszczak

IT'S open season on Andy Warhol. Just when it seemed that anything or any consequence that was ever going to be written about the Blank Baron or the Phantom of the Factory or whatever else he is being called this week, had already been written, several times over, a new armada of Warhol-inspired words has been launched.

His disciples are writing their memoirs. And if ever a man had a lot of disciples that man was Andy Warhol. And if ever a man's disciples had a lot of memories it was that bunch of weirdos, junkies, Superstars, super-hangers-on, super-amphetamine heads, Sugar Plum Fairies, posters, poseurs, preening peacocks and Pont-Neuf-ists who paraded around The Factory.

In theory The Factory was Warhol's studio-cum-workshop for the bulk production of screen-printed Marilyn's, etc. In practice it was a den of iniquity where Gay America invited Drug Culture to an orgy that lasted ten years. From suicide to the sexual abuse of horses, from gang bangs to gang-hermitry, the Factory (or Pharmacopoeia as Ultra Violet calls it) was a kind of alternative kindergarten for the seriously unruly, with Warhol as teacher.

That much we already knew — although not perhaps in the hair-graying detail lavished on events in Victor Bockris' bit, 539 word, biography, or in Ultra Violet's big, 530 decibel essay in revenge.

What is new is the level of regret/anger/spite directed at Warhol by his former playthings. As far as this batch of liberated, post-funeral literature is concerned Andy Warhol was a cruel, mind-bending, tight-fisted ex-ploiteer and manipulator, who stole his disciples' energy, their work, their ideas, their youth, their virginity, and in some cases, (Edie Sedgwick), their money. The Factory-crowd called him Dreila. He was half-Dracula, half-Cinderella.

Nat Finkelstein: "Andy was a hunter-gatherer. Edie was one of the things he collected."

Ultra Violet: "He was a shy, near-blind, bald, gay albino from an ethnic Pittsburgh ghetto."

Emile de Antonio: "He looked like a super-intelligent white rabbit."

Lou Reed: "I fired Warhol." Victor Hugo (sic): "Andy was jerkin' off in the bathroom in between taking the pictures."

Andy Warhol: "Your own life while it's happening to you never has any atmosphere until it's a memory..."

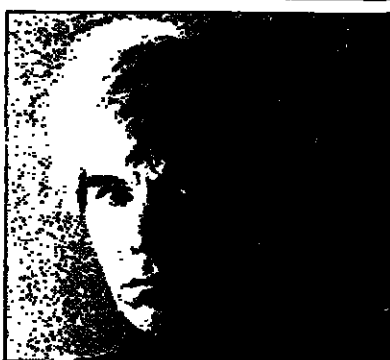
For "memory" in the above quote, a typical one, exchange "TV film", or "book", or "photograph", or "after-dinner anecdote", or "tape-recording." It was one of Warhol's insights, and he had some cunning ones, that until you record something it may as well never have happened. And that the recording you make, in whatever medium, will seem more real than the reality.

That was why he never left his home during the last 15 years of his life without a tape-recorder in his pocket and a camera around his neck.

His appearance too, solidified into a kind of picture-record of himself, a perfect Andy with large silver wig and black Armani beatnik-wear. Ten years of face-lifts and silicon injections ensured the continuing crispness of those Slavic features.

Andy Warhol looks a scream on the cover of Nat Finkelstein's *The Factory Years*. So does the chap next to him, the one in the top hat and Sherlock Holmes cape. So do Lou Reed and Ingrid Superstar and all their other freaks and weirdos arranged in a long line like the last of the Rocky Horror Show.

Nat Finkelstein was never famous, not even for 15 minutes. He was a photo-journalist sent to the infamous Factory in 1964 to

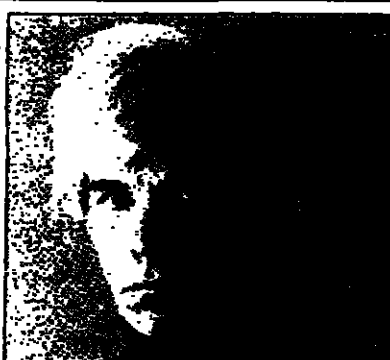


Andy Warhol: if ever a man had a lot of disciples it was him

photograph the evidence and run. But like one of those neighbour's cats who foolishly give some milk to, he stayed. In this, and in his swift adoption of the prevailing social-codes, he was a typical Factory-being.

Finkelstein, according to his own reckoning, and I suspect, only according to his own reckoning, soon became a force to be reckoned with at the Factory: "What's he doing here?" changed to "where the hell is he?", to "SOMEBODY CALL NAT." "You get the impression that once Nat left the Factory it went downhill all the way. Which makes it all the more curious that Finkelstein does not even warrant a mention in 330 pages of Victor Bockris or 274 pages of Ultra Violet."

It was one of Warhol's insights, and he had some cunning ones, that until you record something it may as well never have happened. And that the recording you make, with whatever medium, and with



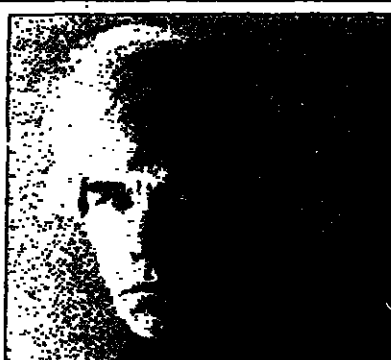
Andy Warhol: if ever a man had a lot of disciples it was him

whatever alterations, will seem more real than the reality.

Ultra Violet was famous for her appetite for being famous. The other Factory girl complained that she was interesting her solid self between them and the camera. She was beautiful, originally French, and wore her hair purple. She was a Catholic as were an impressive number of Factory-beings (make of that what you will), including Warhol himself.

Ultra Violet lapsed. Unlike Warhol, she saw joining the Factory as part of the lapsing. She is now a Born-Again Christian.

The Factory years began when somebody called Billy Name covered the entire interior of an old warehouse space with silver foil, including the toilet bowl. They ended when Valerie Solanas, the leading, indeed, the only light of the Society for Cutting Up Men, (SCUM) shot and nearly killed Warhol. There were Factories



Andy Warhol: if ever a man had a lot of disciples it was him

before and after but this particular incarnation on East 47th St is the one at the epicentre of all these troubled memories.

By far the most revealing parts of Bockris' book (I doubt if there will ever be a better one, given that Bockris has been hard-working, questioning, and a friend) concern Warhol's origins in industrial Pittsburgh. The origins of so much that was to come — the star-worship, the insularity, the smothering, even the soup-cans it seems — can be traced back to those tough early years.

Warhol's mother, who later became something of an underground star in her own right, began life as a dramatically typical Czechoslovakian peasant, who spoke no English and never took off her headscarf. She could only afford to feed her emaciated son on Campbell's tomato soup.

She also used Brillo pads in the kitchen. Even when Warhol was entering his heaviest sado-masoch-



Andy Warhol: if ever a man had a lot of disciples it was him

istic/voyeuristic period as a New York gay (Ultra Violet's convent-education comes bustling to the fore when she finds out what a Golden Shower is) he would come home to a mother who asked when he was going to find a nice girl and get married. Officially Warhol never came out of the closet. Indeed he was distinctly craven about revealing his true sexuality in places where it would have lost him respectability points. A habit of clubs like The Toilet and The Mine Shaft he was "probably the only person in America who had access to these sex-pits as well as to the White House." It is one of his strong points that he chose never really to distinguish clearly between the two.

© Warhol: *The Biography*, by Victor Bockris (Frederick Muller £18.95). *The Factory Years*, by Nat Finkelstein (Sidgwick and Jackson £9.95). *Famous For 15 Minutes*, by Ultra Violet (Methuen £12.95, published May 25).



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ذاتی انٹرویو کیلئے ۴ نومبر ۴۶۷۳۴۶۶  
۴۶۷۰۸۸۱  
۴۶۷۰۲۰۷ پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

مہربان اور رحم فرمانے والے ہے

حدیث نبوی

حضرت انسؓ کو (غماز میں) ایک ایسی چیز  
 دیکھا ہے جو تم لوگ نہیں کرتے!

بیٹھے ہیں جلتے جسم کے اندر بجھے بجھے  
اسے لہو کی جھیل میں خود کو چھائے ہم

۱۷۹۶ء..... فرانس کے نپولین بونا پارٹ کی  
فوج مسلمان اہل ایمان پر داخل ہو گئی۔

جرمنی کے سامنے ہتھیار ڈال دیئے۔  
۱۹۳۸ء..... مصری طیاروں نے اسرائیل پر

کڑی کے نرس

۱۸۹-۳۵ (تی ہزار) فراہمی فراہم

**۰۰۔ اکتاجی اعلان ۱-۷ سلامتی قرآن**

...اقسام







## Dickens and Brand tie for top spot

BRUSSELS, May 14, (Reuters): Club professional Kevin Dickens shot a five-under-par 67 yesterday to tie fellow-Briton Gordon J. Brand (68) for the lead on 204 in the third round of the Belgian Open at Royal Waterloo.

The pair are one stroke clear of fellow-Briton Richard Boxall, who shot 66, with Frenchman Marc Farry (71) fourth, four strokes further back on 209, and Northern Ireland's Ronan Rafferty (67) on 210.

All five players are seeking to join Paul Broadhurst (Cannes Open), Mark Roe (Catalan Open) and Vijay Singh (Sardinian Open) as first-time winners on the Tour this year.

Dickens, 28, gained his PGA card at the fourth attempt at last year's tour school and finished 19th on his first outing in Tenerife in the first week of the season. But he has failed to qualify on each of his subsequent five starts.

A birdie at the last edged him level with Brand, and he said: "The pressure is off now I've qualified, and my scores show it."

His biggest prize was £250 (\$425) for a tournament win in England. By contrast, today he was chasing a \$54,780 first prize.

Brand, five times a tour runner-up, hopes to break through to boost his hopes of a return to the European Ryder Cup side in September.

Farry, 29, eight years a professional, gained his card at December's PGA school and finished 11th in Tenerife but then missed four successive qualifying cuts.

Yesterday the man rated France's hottest prospect birdied three of the last seven holes.

Swede Jesper Parnevik, top qualifier at the 1988 tour school, shot five birdies in a 67 for 211.

Spanish Open winner Bernhard Langer of West Germany (72-215) and defending champion Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain (73-219) and defending champion Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain (73-219) are now out of the running.

## Three share lead after 2nd round

LINCROFT, N.J., May 14, (Reuters): Sherri Steinhilber, Cindy Rarick and Briton Laura Davies were tied for the lead at four-under-par 142 after the second round of the \$275,000 Women's Classic golf tournament yesterday.

Amy Alcott carded a five-under-par 68 and was alone at 143, while defending champion Nancy Lopez, Betsy King and Marlene Floyd were another shot back at two-under 144.

## Zoeller retains Memorial lead after three rounds

DUBLIN, Ohio, May 14, (Reuters): Fuzzy Zoeller pitched in from 45 feet at the final hole to gain a one stroke lead over Bob Tway after three rounds of the Memorial tournament on the soggy Muirfield Village Golf Club course yesterday.

Zoeller's closing birdie gave him an even-par 72 for the day and a nine-under 207 total. Tway shot a solid round of 68 for his eight-under par 208.

Bruce Lietzke bogeyed the 17th and 18th holes to drop back into a third place tie with Fred Couples at four-under par 212, while Mark Calcavecchia and Ray Floyd were another shot back at 213.

Zoeller, who has held the lead after each round, parred his first seven holes before taking a double bogey five at the par-three eighth hole.

He hit a seven-iron off the tee

and the ball rolled into a bunker and up against the lip. Zoeller could not go for the pin since the ball was partially buried.

If I had tried, all I would have gotten was a club full of dirt," said Zoeller.

Zoeller's second shot was back toward the tee, still in the bunker. He then hit out to within four feet, but missed the putt.

On the back nine, Zoeller came back with birdies on the 15th and

18th holes.

Tway had four birdies in another bogey-free round. He has now played 50 consecutive holes without a bogey.

"This is the first time all year I've been in the last group (with the leaders) on Sunday. It's nice to be back with a chance to win again," said Tway, who won four tournaments in 1986 — including the PGA championship — but has not won since.

## Bulls brush aside Knicks

Suns demolish Warriors

NEW YORK, May 13, (AP): Michael Jordan scored 40 points, 16 in a pivotal second quarter, leading the Chicago Bulls to a 111-88 victory yesterday over the New York Knicks and a 2-1 lead in their best-of-7 NBA playoff series.

The loss virtually puts the Knicks into a must situation for game No. 4 today.

Meanwhile, the Phoenix Suns beat the Golden State Warriors 135-89 yesterday in the playoffs.

Jordan keyed the second quarter, in which the Bulls stretched a 24-20 lead to 66-46 and left the Knicks gasping.

Patrick Ewing, who led the Knicks with 19 points, scored eight of New York's first 12 points in the second half and helped chop the lead to 83-67 after three quarters.

Charles Oakley opened the fourth period with a basket for New York, but John Paxson and Jordan scored successive baskets to up the lead to 87-69.

Any hopes the Knicks might have had for a late comeback were sidetracked by Jordan midway in the final period when he scored seven points in the little more than a minute for a 98-76 lead.

The Bulls made the first run of the game when they turned a 9-8 lead into a 22-11 advantage with Jordan, Scottie Pippen and Bill Cartwright leading the way.

Jordan left the game at that point, and the Knicks put on their pressure defense. They outscored the Bulls 9-2 with Trent Tucker



Jordan: scored 40 points

hitting his first 3-point basket and Kiki Vandeweghe scoring four points.

The quarter ended with Chicago holding a 24-20 lead.

Jordan returned in the second quarter, and

the Bulls cracked open the pressing defense with a 17-8 run for a 41-28 lead. Horace Grant scored nine points in that spree.

With 4:35 left in half, Craig Hodges hit a 3-pointer to open an 18-point Chicago lead at 52-34.

Ewing hit a pair of free throws with 45 seconds left in the half to cut the lead to 60-46, but Jordan converted a three-point play and John Paxson hit a 3-point basket for a 66-46 halftime lead.

In the other game, Eddie Johnson scored 34 points and led a second-half runaway as Phoenix routed Golden State 135-89. The Suns now have a 3-1 lead in their Western Conference playoff series.

Johnson hit six 3-pointers, four during a 20-point second quarter and two more in the third, when the Suns broke the game open. Phoenix outscored the Warriors 68-38 in the second half, holding its hosts to 27 per cent shooting.

Johnson and Tom Chambers, who finished with 28 points, each had 10 in a third-quarter blitz that saw the Suns stretch a six-point halftime lead to 102-83. The Warriors missed 22 of 30 shots in that stretch.

Kevin Johnson added 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as Phoenix won its ninth straight road game. The Suns can wrap up the series at home Tuesday night.

Golden State was led by Chris Mullin with 28 points, Terry Teague with 23 and Rod Higgins with 18.

## Mears enjoys day off

## Rain hits Indy 500 practice

INDIANAPOLIS, May 14, (UPI): Rick Mears thought he would battle yesterday for pole position at the Indianapolis 500. Instead, the defending champion spent a rainy day with family and friends watching a light drizzle postpone the opening of time trials for the May 28 race.

"You can't get upset or nervous about it," Mears said. "You might as well enjoy a day off and spend some time with your family. For the competitors it's a shame. They came to see a show and didn't get to."

Former Marine Lieut. Col. Oliver North was among thousands of fans who braved dreary conditions yesterday to visit the speedway. North, a guest of the Pat Patrick racing team, toured the garage area and wished Mears good luck in his quest to win a record fifth Indy pole.

Indianapolis Motor Speedway officials closed the track at 2:45 pm as the sun began to shine. Tom Binford, the speedway's chief steward, said there was not enough time to dry the pavement and provide mandatory practice time before the speedway's 6 pm closing time.

Qualifying was scheduled to begin today under clear skies with high temperatures near 68 degrees. Time trials conclude next weekend. Yesterday's practice session was the first to be rained out since 1984 and the first opening day to be washed out since 1983, when the entire first weekend was scrapped.

Mears drove his Chevrolet-powered Penske chassis around the 2-1/2-mile (4-km) Oval Friday at 226.231 mph (364 kph), the fastest Indy practice lap ever recorded. The three-time Indy winner expects no reduction in speed because of the poor weather.

"This rain won't affect the speeds," Mears predicted. "They'll just be the same on a different day."

Mears said a qualifying average at 227 mph (365 kph) today "is not out of the question but that's awfully quick for four laps."

The rain might be a help for Teo Fabi, who won the 1983 pole as a rookie after the entire first weekend of qualifying was washed out.

"In '83 it was the same. It rained the first weekend and I got the pole the second. Unfortunately, it's going to be sunny Sunday," said Fabi.

## Phinney wins 2nd straight race

BALTIMORE, May 14, (AP): Davis Phinney won his second straight race, and Belgium's Eric Vanderaerden narrowed his overall race deficit to less than one minute yesterday, during the ninth stage of the Tour De Trump bicycle race.

Phinney, who on Friday won the Arlington circuit race — the first victory by an American — "came out of a massive pack with 300 metres remaining to claim the (82-kilometre) 51-mile Baltimore criterium in 1 hour, 42 minutes, 35 seconds."

Phinney and Vanderaerden crossed the line in a photo finish on opposite sides of the street near Baltimore's Inner Harbour. West German amateur Rolf Aldag was third in the same time as the winner.

"He (Vanderaerden) really surged at the end," said Phinney.



Twins' second baseman Al Newman is upended but holds on to the ball after Blue Jays' Rob Ducey slide into second base. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Chavez clinches title

Fight stopped after 10th round

LOS ANGELES, May 14, (Reuters): Mexico's Julio Cesar Chavez remained undefeated and won his third world title yesterday as he pummeled American champion Roger Mayweather into submission to take the World Boxing Council (WBC) super lightweight crown.

Mayweather, who was defending his title for the fourth time, slumped in his corner after the 10th round and told American referee Henry Elsupura that he could not continue.

"I got a bad cramp about the sixth round and it kept getting worse," said Mayweather after the fight.

At the time the scheduled 12-round fight was stopped, however, Chavez was well ahead on points.

The victory improved Chavez's impressive record to 63 wins and no defeats with 51 opponents stopped inside the distance.

The favoured 26-year-old Chavez, who entered the fight holding the WBC and World Boxing Association lightweight titles, connected with strong punches throughout what appeared to slowly wear Mayweather down. But Chavez was unable to drop the defending champion to the canvas.

"The weight was no problem," Chavez, who was fighting as a super lightweight for the first time, said through an interpreter. "It was a much closer bout than the last time they fought when in July, 1985, Chavez knocked Mayweather out in the second round of a WBC super featherweight title."

Mayweather connected with strong punches, especially in the sixth and eighth rounds, but some of his best shots came after the bell.

Three times they refused to stop exchanging blows at the bell and after the seventh round one of Mayweather's cornermen entered the ring to pull Chavez off his fighter.

Mayweather was twice given a point deduction by the referee — in the third round for a low blow and in the fourth for excessive holding. Chavez was usually the aggressor as he stalked the back-peddling Mayweather, but often they stood toe-to-toe in the middle of the ring furiously blasting away at each other.

Mayweather suffered a cut on his left eyelid which caused a brief stoppage in the eighth round so the ringside physician could inspect the damage, but the fight continued and the cut did not appear to affect the 28-year-old American, whose record dropped to 34-6.

It was Mayweather's first loss since moving up to the super lightweight division two years ago.

## Puckett takes Twins past Blue Jays

NEW YORK, May 14, (AP): Kirby Puckett tied a Major-League record with four doubles and drove in three runs, leading the Minnesota Twins over Toronto Blue Jays 10-8 for their fourth straight victory yesterday.

The Twins tied a team record with seven doubles among their 14 hits. Toronto had four doubles and 13 hits.

Puckett became the 35th player to hit four doubles in a game, the first since Damaso Garcia for Toronto in 1986. Puckett leads the Majors with 16 doubles.

Puckett went 4-for-5 with three RBI doubles, including one during a six-run fifth inning. Greg Gagne, batting ninth in the Twins' lineup, had three hits and drove in three runs and John Moses drove in two runs.

Shane Rawley, 3-4, pitched 6 1-3 innings and Jeff Reardon got his seventh save. Dave Stieb, 3-1, lasted only 4 1-3 innings.

Indians 3, Tigers 1

Greg Swindell pitched a six-hitter for his first complete game and Oddibe McDowell drove in one run and scored another.

Swindell, 4-0, struck out eight and walked none to end Cleveland's three-game losing streak. Doyle Alexander, 3-4, gave up 10 hits, none of them singles, as Detroit lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

## Results

| National League |   |               |   |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Houston         | 1 | Chicago       | 0 |
| Montreal        | 5 | San Francisco | 4 |
| New York        | 4 | San Diego     | 3 |
| Philadelphia    | 2 | Los Angeles   | 0 |
| Pittsburgh      | 8 | Atlanta       | 3 |
| Cincinnati      | 3 | St. Louis     | 2 |

| American League |    |           |   |
|-----------------|----|-----------|---|
| Minnesota       | 10 | Toronto   | 8 |
| Cleveland       | 3  | Detroit   | 1 |
| California      | 6  | New York  | 1 |
| Oakland         | 4  | Milwaukee | 3 |
| Kansas City     | 19 | Texas     | 1 |
| Chicago         | 8  | Baltimore | 2 |
| Seattle         | 14 | Boston    | 6 |

## Standings

| American League |    |    |      |       |
|-----------------|----|----|------|-------|
| East Division   |    |    |      |       |
|                 | W  | L  | Pct. | GB    |
| Boston          | 17 | 16 | .515 | -     |
| New York        | 17 | 17 | .500 | 1-2   |
| Cleveland       | 16 | 17 | .485 | 1     |
| Baltimore       | 15 | 18 | .455 | 2     |
| Milwaukee       | 14 | 19 | .424 | 3     |
| Toronto         | 12 | 23 | .343 | 6     |
| Detroit         | 11 | 22 | .333 | 6     |
| West Division   |    |    |      |       |
|                 | W  | L  | Pct. | GB    |
| Oakland         | 24 | 11 | .686 | -     |
| California      | 22 | 13 | .629 | 2     |
| Kansas City     | 22 | 13 | .629 | 2     |
| Texas           | 20 | 14 | .588 | 3 1/2 |
| Seattle         | 19 | 18 | .514 | 4     |
| Minnesota       | 15 | 18 | .455 | 8     |
| Chicago         | 15 | 20 | .429 | 9     |
| National League |    |    |      |       |
| East Division   |    |    |      |       |
|                 | W  | L  | Pct. | GB    |
| New York        | 19 | 14 | .576 | -     |
| St. Louis       | 19 | 14 | .576 | -     |
| Montreal        | 19 | 17 | .528 | 1 1/2 |
| Chicago         | 17 | 17 | .500 | 2 1/2 |
| Philadelphia    | 15 | 18 | .455 | 4     |
| Pittsburgh      | 14 | 19 | .424 | 5     |
| West Division   |    |    |      |       |
|                 | W  | L  | Pct. | GB    |
| Cincinnati      | 19 | 15 | .559 | -     |
| San Francisco   | 19 | 16 | .543 | 1-2   |
| San Diego       | 18 | 20 | .474 | 3     |
| Atlanta         | 17 | 19 | .472 | 3     |
| Houston         | 16 | 19 | .457 | 3 1/2 |
| Los Angeles     | 15 | 18 | .455 | 3 1/2 |

## Kuwaiti racers bear worst of misfortunes

No adequate provision made for safety of participants

By Gail Seery  
Arab Times staff

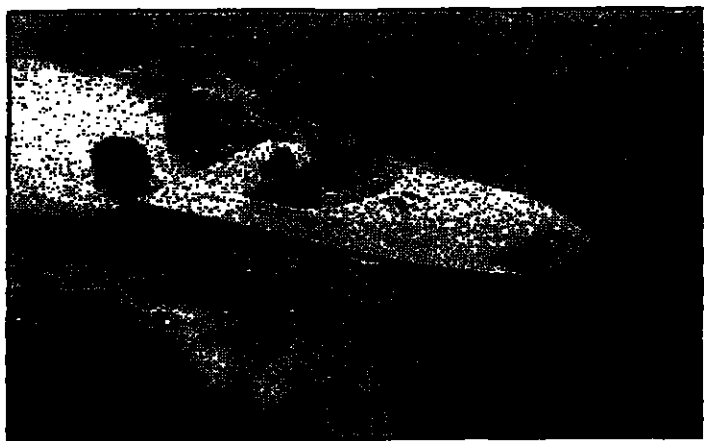
ON the morning of Friday's 2nd Kuwait Powerboat Race, the sea was as flat as a mill-pond: a few hours before the Sea Club's race, the wind came up, and whipped the sea into 6-foot waves. The water was as uncomfortable place to be, even for the spectator boats bobbing around close to shore; for the racers, it was to provide danger, and for some, disaster.

The Kuwaiti racers seemed to bear the worst of the misfortunes. Sheikh Basel Al Sabah and his English navigator Maurice Holman stuffed the front end of the boat into a wave, catapulting Holman through the air, according to Anando Fernando, throtleman to Mishaal Al Jarallah. Sheikh Basel was yesterday reported to have broken eight ribs, and his collar bone and his partner escaped with only two broken ribs.

Ahmed and Khaled Al Ansari took off around the middle of the pack; when they came to the first turning point however, they encountered serious difficulties. "We were having trouble with the engine," Ansari told me. Then Khaled said: "Look behind you—I did and saw that the boat was on fire. Khaled shouted at me to jump, and we did, because we were afraid of an explosion, and the fire extinguisher was too close to the flames to try to get it. We were in the water for about five minutes before Khalifa and Abdulla came to us."

Al Ansari added later that there had been no help from the Coast Guard, and that without the assistance of their fellow competitors the whole situation could have worsened.

"We had just broken a shaft and lost a propeller," said Khalifa Al Qatani and Abdulla Al Badr. "We were about to retire when we saw the smoke from Ahmed's boat and went to see if we could help them. When we got there they were both in the



Al Qatani and Al Badr: rescued Al Ansari



Ali Alwan tackles the rough sea.

water. We took them into the boat and the four of us went on together slowly on one engine. We had already had trouble with the remaining engine, and then that one stopped. The four were eventually brought back to the Sea Club, more than one hour after the first boat came home.

"The fire department did come," said an angry Ansari, "but thirty minutes later and without adequate equipment." Mark Williams, the Arab Times photographer was in the helicopter chasing the leader of the race. He saw the smoke from the boat, and requested the pilot to turn back, but was refused. This incident was one of the more serious in the day, and showed that no adequate provision for the safety of the races had been made by the Coast Guard. The complaints against unhelpful Coast Guards flooded in from competitors who had been in difficulties in rough water.

Nobody can take responsibility for the weather, but some provision must be made for those who require help, particularly with fading light and high waves. It was clear that a plan had been made to clear the marina area of spectator boats as the racers began to return, and whilst this would certainly have been an excellent plan in ordinary

weather, it had the effect of pushing some overloaded and barely seaworthy boats away from the safety of the shore out into the waves.

On the other hand, one of the major successes of the day belonged to the Al Sha'ali family of Dubai, who took two of the top three positions with their boats — first a Tigercat, built by Abdullah Al Sha'ali, and, in third place a Gulfcraft manufactured by Jamal Al Sha'ali's brother.

Brothers Mohammed and Saeed Al Sha'ali were less lucky. "We were near the SAS Hotel when we finished — both engines stopped, only a kilometre before the finish line — otherwise maybe the family could have made it a hat-trick."

Again, Australian crew, Geoff Welch and Steve Seal found themselves waiting for the race without their boat, Caprisonne. In the Jordan race, they had experienced the same delays and their boat arrived at three in the morning before the race. This time they cut it finer still, and the boat was being unloaded from the truck by crane with less than an hour to go before the race. The boat went straight into the water, with no opportunity for testing, and roared through to second

place with no problems. The Natwel was one of the few mono-hulls racing, and is known to perform well in rough water.

According to Ali Alwan, in the winning boat, one of the main factors which gave the Dubians such an overwhelming victory in the race lay in the rough seas. The sea tends to be rougher in Dubai than it is here, and Alwan contends that the Dubians have more experience in rough water. "This race is about experience," he told me. The 28ft Tigercat, powered by two Mercury 2.4 c.f.i. engines experienced no problems from start to finish, and led from turning point one, coming in a good ten minutes before the Caprisonne boat. Alwan is one of the most experienced racers in the Gulf, having won the first ever Dubai race with Abdullah Al Sha'ali, and taking second place in the next Dubai event.

Most of the strong local contenders encountered difficulties. Mishaal Al Jarallah, sponsored by Mobile Telephone Systems Company, broke the shaft on his right engine while running near the front between turning points 2 and 3, and described the sea as being about as rough as the first race in Kuwait, in October 1987.

Khaled Al Sayegh, racing for the first time and with the

experienced Mohammed Karam at his side, was forced out of the race with steering problems and a broken engine bracket. "We had no assistance from the Coast Guard at all. We flew so many times and nearly flipped," said Al Sayegh.

Hossam Al Sayafe found his boat filling with water early in the race, and lost an engine cover and the steering bar. He had started from behind, but moved in to "hide from the waves" by racing close to the shore and had caught up with the leaders by turning point 1. However, on the final turn of the race, "we had only one engine — I went overboard, and Khaled had to come back to pick me up. Then we stopped completely."

Despite the apparent inadequacy of the emergency services, racers were unanimous that the race was very good. Hasan Rajab, the organiser, had worked closely with Dubai race organiser Saeed Harab to produce a bigger race than has been held here in the past. "The standard of racing in Kuwait is going up and up," said a spokesman for the Dubai group. The Sea Club should be congratulated for its efforts, and for bringing government support to this sport.

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